Daily Report

Latin America

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Rio Group on Ties Between U.S., Latin America

PY0604233194 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p C5

[Article by Brasilia "special correspondent" Elia Simeone R.]

[Excerpt] Latin American governments will alert U.S. President Bill Clinton to the need to enhance relations with that country and to work in greater concert with one another to solve the problems confronting the hemisphere.

The request will be submitted to the U.S. President during the summit of the Americas' heads of state, which has been called by Clinton himself in Miami at the end of this year.

This resolution by Latin American governments was adopted during the meeting of Rio Group foreign ministers, which ended here in Brasilia on 22 March.

The agreements reached at this meeting were publicized on 22 March by the three foreign ministers who make up the troika of the Rio Group, namely, Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, in his capacity as pro tempore secretary, highlighted that the Rio Group resolved to start a process of consultations and coordination in order to present a united front at the Miami summit.

Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa stated that one of the agreements included the aforementioned need for closer political relations between the United States and Latin America, which will be raised for Clinton's consideration.

He said that within this framework, subjects of common interest like the strengthening of democracy, governability, hemispheric security, drug trafficking, and terrorism could be tackled in a more appropriate way.

The foreign ministers also agreed to call Clinton's attention to the social development issue, Latin American countries' efforts to combat poverty, the need to introduce changes in Latin American countries' education systems, and to have greater access to technology.

The Brazilian foreign minister noted that some of these questions were briefly touched upon during U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Brazil on 22 March, which only lasted for a couple of hours.

With regard to Latin American governments' expectations of the Americas' summit, Figueroa said the meeting's objectives are not very clear since the letter Clinton sent to his Latin American counterparts does not state what the United States expects from this summit meeting and only mentions his interest in drafting a common agenda. [passage omitted]

Haitian Foreign Minister To Address SELA

PA0604220594 Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Caracas, 6 Apr (AFP)—Claudette Werleigh, foreign minister of Haiti's constitutional government, will explain her country's political situation to representatives of international organizations and ambassadors to the Latin American Economic System (SELA), it was reported Wednesday. SELA headquarters are in Caracas.

SELA spokesmen said that representatives of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the OAS, UNESCO, the International Organization for Immigrants, and the UNHCR will attend the meeting.

The ambassadors from Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica will also attend.

During the last SELA Latin American Council held in Caracas in October 1993, representatives of the 27 member states signed a solidarity declaration with the Haitian people expressing their "deep concern for the lack of constitutional order in that country."

The Council recommended that the SELA Permanent Secretariat "follow up on the situation in Haiti and remain alert so upon restoration of constitutional rule," a cooperation program can be immediately implemented.

Cuba

Bilateral Cooperation Accords Signed With Argentina

Justice Minister on Broadening U.S. Ties

FL0604185494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Representatives of the Cuban and Argentine Governments have signed, in Havana, a bilateral cooperation agreement for monitoring and preventing drug addiction and trafficking. The document was signed at the Cuban Foreign Ministry by Alberto Lestelle, Argentine programming and coordination secretary for the prevention of drug abuse and for the antinarcotics struggle, and Cuban Minister of Justice Carlos Amat. In exclusive statements to journalist Josefa Bussi, the justice minister talked about the U.S. State Department document that acknowledged Cuba's cooperation in the struggle against drug traffic.

[Begin Amat recording] Well, we read the statements. We have assessed this as something positive because it does recognize the effort our country has been making, and is continuing to make, despite the existing difficulties in turning into concrete action all these things that, actually, have to do with the political will to fight drug trafficking, thinking not only of our own people but also about all mankind. We think that, indeed, this recognition could constitute the possibility of continuing to enter deeper [continuar profundizando] relations that, in an unofficial way, are being established at certain moments with U.S. authorities. And, in the last analysis, it is indeed everyone's duty to continue working in that direction. [end recording]

According to the specialists, Cuba's cooperation in this struggle extends to intercepting planes and ships in its air and maritime space, as well as in supplying information to the U.S. services in charge of confronting that problem.

Drug Trafficking Agreement Signed

PY0604174094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0036 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Havana, 5 Apr (AFP-NA)—Argentina and Cuba signed an agreement in Havana on 5 April that contemplates mutual bilateral assistance for the repression of drug trafficking, the prevention of drug addiction, and an exchange of information between security organizations. The document was signed by Cuban Justice Minister Carlos Amat and Argentina's Secretary of State Alberto Lestelle.

Lestelle said Cuba "has important traffic by large (drug) producers in the south and important traffic by large consumers in the north." The island "still does not have consumption problems but is facing incipient trafficking problem," the secretary added. Cuban Justice Vice Minister Zenaida Osorio, who was mentioned by PRENSA LATINA, said: "The development of tourism and the opening of the country to foreign investors might also attract traffickers."

Secretary of State Lestelle, the highest ranking Argentine federal authority on the repression of trafficking and addiction prevention, after signing the agreement said the document will enable the exchange of information between specialized security organizations from the two countries. For this work, Lestelle said Argentina uses the National Maritime Prefecture and the National Border Police.

Lestelle said that under the "mutual agreement," an ad-hoc committee has been created—it members will be appointed later—to define the way this information cooperation and exchange will operate. The agreement also covers social assistance and the legal aspects of trafficking repression and consumption prevention. Lestelle said that in the Central American and Caribbean region, Argentina has similar cooperation agreements with Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala and similar proposals are being negotiated with Nicaragua and Honduras.

Robaina on Unconditional Talks, Emigres Meeting

PA0604211794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1845 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Montevideo, 6 Apr (AFP)—Today, the Cuban Government reaffirmed its willingness to engage the United States in an unconditional dialogue, but in fact the only condition must precisely be an absence of prerequisites. At the conclusion of a three-day visit to Uruguay, the foreign minister from Havana, Roberto Robaina, pointed out that there is currently "no sign" that would lead us to expect a possible lifting of the economic and commercial blockade that has burdened the island for over three decades.

"We are not now holding talks with the United States, (but) are willing to engage in a dialogue on any issue. We do not even have to start with the blockade," the Cuban minister said. "What we have said is that we would hold talks under one condition: that there be no conditions," added Robaina, who is the obvious leader of a diplomatic offensive launched by the island to attract private investors.

The foreign minister, 37, said at a news conference that "if the idea is to hold talks based on prerequisites, there would be no chance of us participating in any talks." Robaina pointed out that "my country has nothing to give in exchange for an unjustly imposed blockade." He added that both OAS votes and a genuine willingness to invest in Cuba are needed to end it.

As for his government's policy of promoting investments, Robaina assured that even Cubans in exile will have an opportunity to participate in the opening up process. "Cuba cannot say that it is opening itself up legally to capital investment from all quarters without opening itself up to Cubans who left the country," the foreign minister

said. He added that "when we say that investment possibilities are available to everyone we mean everyone." Robaina pointed out that this calls for a gradual process as well as the establishment of a climate of trust in the foreign investor within a framework of broad and flexible regulations that excludes no one.

The minister also commented on the economic problems facing the island in the wake of the "surprising" demise of the socialist bloc. He said that "although there is no variety on our tables," the basic nourishment of our population is ensured. He pointed out that in view of the dilemma caused by this situation, Cuba has only two options: "Renounce its achievements or decide to ignore their essence and adapt in order to survive under current conditions and with principles that are essential to us."

The foreign minister said that the collapse of socialism was not the only thing that affected the expectations of the regime that has ruled the island since 1 January 1959. He admitted that mistakes that led to the current situation included excessive reliance on foreign aid and the neglect of important production sectors like agriculture. In this regard, he pointed out that the preferential relations that Cuba enjoyed with the Soviet bloc had ended and voiced Cuba's willingness to participate in a restructuring process leading to the establishment of new ties.

Robaina also talked about exiles and noted that a meeting will be held on the Isle of Youth from 22 to 24 April with representatives of the diaspora from about 60 countries. He pointed out that the government plans to establish a "normal path" to ensure that exiles "cease to be the instrument for hostile policies against the island." The foreign minister said, "I think that certain things involve healthy interests (because) many Cubans of goodwill, who are all over the world, want to maintain normal relations with their homeland." He added that the important thing will not be the meeting itself but its results.

Discusses Emigre Conference

FL0604214894 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1949 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] For Cuba as well as for those Cuban emigres who maintain an open and respectful attitude toward the Revolution, it is no longer acceptable to continue the abnormal ties of the past few decades. This was a statement by Foreign Vice Minister Jorge Alberto Bolanos during a news conference on 6 April with Cuban and foreign journalists to discuss preparations for the forthcoming conference, The Nation and the Emigre Community, to be held 22-24 April.

Bolanos added that the meeting will be for friends only and will include a broad cross-section of the emigre community, including representatives of the right. Bolanos pointed out that the only ones excluded are those who maintain a hostile attitude toward their fatherland and who advocate a dirty war and the U.S. blockade.

Bolanos also stressed that the participants will be people capable of making positive contributions to the Cuban emigre community and to their ties with Cuba. He added that the April meeting is not an isolated event, but a continuation of the dialogue begun in 1978, which seeks to find answers to issues left unresolved then, as well as to new issues. Bolanos announced that over 200 invitations have been sent and that positive responses have been received. Over 170 emigres are expected to attend the conference.

The conference's four main subjects will be addressed by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina; Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government; Abel Prieto; and Carlos Lage.

Robaina, Uruguay's Foreign Minister View Debt

PAC504123394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Special report" by Roberto Cabada from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] There are no problems in relations between Uruguay and Cuba. We are working toward strengthening those relations, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu said following a meeting with his Cuban counterpart Roberto Robaina.

Abreu said relations between Havana and Montevideo center around trade, politics, and cooperation. In that sense, he confirmed his government's plans to expand trade relations with Cuba and to seek common political positions in international law, such as self-determination, nonintervention in the internal affairs of nations, and the peaceful solution of internal conflicts, principles that now exist in bilateral relations between Uruguay and Cuba.

Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina gave Abreu a broad explanation on the steps Cuba has taken to find a viable national economic model. Both foreign ministers agreed that Havana's debt with Montevideo, estimated at $33 million, should be frozen. They also agreed that a climate of dialogue, initiatives, and prospects should be promoted that will permit, for example, the reactivation of the Uruguay-Cuba commercial commission and the visit to Cuba of a group of Uruguayan businessmen interested in commercial activities. The invitation was formally extended a few hours after Robaina met with members of the Uruguayan Industrial Chamber of Commerce. Today's agenda for the Cuban delegation included meetings with organizations for solidarity with Cuba and leaders of the main political parties.

Uruguayan journalists have followed Robaina everywhere. Today, all the newscasts as well as the [words indistinct] radio stations and daily EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO ran exclusive interviews. The main news on Montevideo's channel four was Robaina strolling through the streets of the capital and being greeted by taxi drivers, students, or newsboys as they recognized him.

Further on Meeting With Abreu

FL0604155694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Apr 94

["Special report" via satellite from Uruguay by Reporter Roberto Cavada]

[Excerpts] Good evening to all Cubans. There are absolutely no problems whatsoever in relations between Uruguay and Cuba. We are working toward strengthening those relations, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu said following a meeting with his Cuban counterpart Roberto Robaina. [passage omitted]

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez gave a broad explanation to Mr. Abreu about the steps Cuba has taken to find a viable national economic model. On this matter, he pointed out that there was no greater policy changes in Cuba than those taking place in the economic sphere.

The two foreign ministers noted that there should be no rigidity [debe descongelarse] about the Cuban debt to Montevideo, estimated at some $33 million. They also agreed that a climate of dialogue, initiatives, and prospects should be promoted that will permit, for example, the reactivation of the Uruguaya-Cuban trade commission and the visit of a group of Uruguayan businessmen to Cuba. The invitation was formally extended a few hours ago after Robaina met with businessmen and members of the Uruguayan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. [passage omitted]

Speaks to Legislative Committee

FL0604164694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cuba is neither the hell they make it out to be nor the paradise it wishes to be; it is, rather, the work of men with both virtues and defects, affirmed Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina on 5 April in Montevideo.

Either of these two affirmations is prejudicial to us because neither is believable, said Robaina, who began an official two-day visit to Uruguay on 4 April within the framework of a South American tour that also includes Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, and Peru.

In speaking to the International Affairs Committee of the Uruguayan parliament, Robaina maintained that political changes are associated with systems and that the conditions for such changes do not exist in Cuba today. Robaina cited sovereignty, independence, and the ability to speak with one's own voice as nonnegotiable principles. Unacceptable, too, are any solutions that would mean backsliding in the spheres of education, health, the sciences, and sports.

Touching upon the subject of human rights, Robaina stressed that Cuba has an extremely clean past, and he affirmed that the nation can display the very strong reality of not having people disappear, get assassinated, or be tortured.

Stresses Regional Integration

FL0604224094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] On 6 April, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina addressed the committee of representatives of the Latin American Integration Association [ALADI] headquartered in Montevideo. Robaina's address to the plenum committee affirmed that with the previous broad process of Latin American integration, it is possible to achieve integration of hemispheric magnitude, averting the danger of neocolonialism. He added:

[Begin Robaina recording] Let us work to join the subregional processes toward a Latin American dimension. Let us attain a regional consensus on social, economic, and political issues aimed at Latin America's integration and our fair insertion in terms of economic and international relations. Let us seek to go further by progressively integrating production and service sectors. Scientific and technological cooperation would also be an instrument vital to the integration process. [end recording]

Referring to Cuba's reality, Robaina told the ALADI committee that Cuba's economic problems will not be solved with foreign investments only, but that the main solutions are Cuba's programs for development and efforts to increase production and exports. Robaina asserted that today, everything in Cuba is open to discussion at every level, except Cuba's sovereignty, self-determination, and particularly, the accomplishments of its social project.

Robaina closed his address to the ALADI committee by requesting the confidence of our Latin American brothers because, and I quote: We have already done what is possible; we are now doing the impossible; for miracles, we ask only for a bit more time.

Paraguay's Ramirez Cited on 'Unofficial' Robaina Visit

FL0604142394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu said, shortly after meeting with his Cuban counterpart Roberto Robaina in Montevideo, that there are no difficulties in the relations between Cuba and Uruguay. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez has said that Robaina will make an unofficial visit to Paraguay in the next few days. Ramirez added that Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy will not be able to receive Robaina because he is traveling in Europe, and that he himself, Ramirez, will not be able to receive Robaina either, because he is leaving today for

Morocco to participate in the signing of the agreement on the Uruguay Round of the GATT.

Diplomatic relations between Havana and Asuncion do not exist at the present time, but Robaina's presence in Paraguay is considered the first reflection of the intention toward rapprochement between Paraguay and Cuba.

Robaina on Isle of Youth Tour With Diplomats

PA0604150894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Report by Barbara Betancourt from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] To conduct foreign politics from within the country is still the goal that encourages the Cuban Foreign Ministry to organize tours through different territories. The latest tour was to the special municipality of the Isle of Youth, where Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived with 60 heads of missions accredited in Havana.

[Begin recording] [Robaina] I believe everyone in the country, particularly the diplomatic corps, has always been interested in the work performed on the island. I believe that to become familiar with the island, one must do it from within and with its people. Nothing is more important than the explanations the people personally give. I believe the example we saw today, when the diplomats were able to stop and talk with whomever they wanted on the streets about whatever they wanted, is an example of what Isle of Youth residents can do; therefore, the best message is, above all, about pledges, not formal pledges but, rather, only a real pledge that only by working can we solve our problems and find the option we truly need. There is no need to explain this to Isle of Youth residents. The people on the Isle of Youth are doing it.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you know.... [pauses] Did you know, before you came to the island, the people on the Isle of Youth had already decided they wanted to host the 26 July celebrations next year?

[Robaina] I learned about it because certain media are already talking about this issue. I believe, first of all, it is an important pledge that reflects the Isle of Youth people's decision. I believe it is a decision, desire, and hope backed by hard work and achievements. If we could hope for something, on a personal basis, it is that they successfully achieve their goals.

[Reporter] I understand that out of the five tours that have been made throughout the country, this tour has had a peculiarity: direct contact with the people. What is your evaluation of this point?

[Robaina] I believe each tour has its own appeal. This tour has the island's attention and includes the possibility and privilege of enjoying a neighborhood and family atmosphere, among other things. If the island is like this normally, I see no reason why it should be different for this tour. I believe this is the most important thing, to show the way you really are.

[Reporter] We heard you talk about your diplomatic offensive. What does that term mean?

[Robaina] I think we have talked about a diplomatic offensive, and we think a diplomatic offensive can involve a stage in which it is necessary to increase a specific activity in connection with the absence or role of the media. I believe once that phase has been completed we must talk about a permanent diplomatic offensive in which we tell the world what we want the world to know rather than answer questions. We get tired of going around the world, answering questions, because Cuba also has many questions to ask and has much to say even though it is not asked. [end recording]

Robaina gave those statements to local journalists upon concluding the visit to the Isle of Youth, where he and members of the diplomatic corps visited the main areas of economic interest in the territory, El Abra Farm-Museum, the reconstruction work carried out at Nueva Gerona's historical sector, the Presidio Modelo Museum, and one of the 60 rural schools in the municipality.

Giron-94 Exercise 'Confronting Crime' in Havana

FL0604173194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Exercise Giron-94, an exercise that has to do with the Unified Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP] and confronting crime of all kinds, is under way in the city of Havana. Indeed, this exercise is also under way [5 second break in reception]. In Guantanamo, this SUVP, crime confronting exercise is called Guerrillero-94.

Well, as part of Giron-94 in the city of Havana, NTV carried an illustrative report on this matter of confronting crime in the city of Havana. Let's listen to that report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] There were 40 sacks containing a detergent the nation has earmarked for recovering hard currency [para la recuperacion de divisas]; hard currency that becomes raw materials for producing cleaning products very necessary for society's consumption. Thus, this was a theft that conspired against the citizenry's basic solutions, and one by means of which seven individuals would enrich themselves, had they managed to get the 500 kg of detergent into the underground market. But the police stopped them and returned the 40 sacks that exited through the factory doors without any documentation to the (Sergio Sierra Cabrera) Factory, formerly known as the (Sabatez) Factory.

The accused, Esteban Rodriguez Talaveras, Victor Manuel Valdez Gonzalez, Armando Luis Ploche Torres, and Angel Llane Mendez, took advantage of negligence

in the production area to move the merchandise, which they left hidden in the stockroom until it was put into a closed vehicle, which exited the plant through the gate, without being searched by the guards. [passage omitted]

It was the job of Jose Dabian Ramos, Edilberto Rodriguez Bote, and Lazaro Ruiz Cutino to sell the product on the underground market. The police seized the merchandise from them at a private residence in Cerro Municipality. The matter does not appear to be over, for surely the enterprise (Suchel) [name as heard] has a control system that should prevent anyone from diverting resources. For that reason, the investigation continues. [end recording]

Guerrillero-94 Exercise Begins in Guantanamo

FL0604144194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1946 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The executive phase of the Guerrillero-94 exercise began on 5 April in Guantanamo. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate the efficiency of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System. The exercise will enhance the control and operation structures of the system at each level and increase cohesion at workplaces, organizations, and enterprises to preserve economic resources.

The Executive Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in Holguin has called upon its members to honor their commitment to the people's surveillance program. The measures include performing the entire watch, staying alert, and not letting other tasks distract from the effectiveness of the watch, as well as fulfilling the watch during power outages.

First Technological Promotion Center Dedicated

FL0604144294 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The first and only technological promotion center was dedicated today in Los Tinajones in Camaguey. For those companies, organizations, or institutions that are interested in promoting changes, in transforming the management of their scientific activities in the quest for more efficient service, the first technological promotion center was dedicated in Camaguey.

This scientific and technical institution is headed by experts, who since 1987 have been working in the management and organization of the territory. They offer qualified and reliable services. This is a center which groups a small team of researchers and consultants, who must systematically work in the companies promoting technological development and new experience. It is a center that must fight to establish a style of work which is totally new, a dynamic and agile style to solve problems which are closely related to the companies' main activities.

This center is based on a continuous exchange of technologies and experience with similar organizations, both in Cuba and abroad. It has modern equipment for processing, storing, and transmitting information. It will also work as a consulting firm and a supplier of technological and commercial information, and in personnel training programs.

In a first test program, it has offered services to several companies, such as a cement factory, the Camaguey tourism company, and the production scientific institute. The opening of this technological promotion center will meet the basic demands for organizational changes and will strengthen the institutions.

Haiti

Aristide Spokesman on U.S., Haitian Initiatives

FL0604131794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole In French 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The president-in-exile has not given an official answer on the new plan proposed by the United States for an end to the crisis. The president-in-exile's spokesman specified that the government's position will be known this week. Reacting to the initiatives undertaken in Port-au-Prince attempting to apply Article 149 of the Constitution, spokesman Jean-Claude Martineau stated that the problem of democracy is not a question of applying some article of the Constitution, but to neutralize those who constitute an obstacle to democracy. Mr. Martineau also rejected the calls for resignation by some opponents and even some supporters of the president-in-exile. He answered Clarence Renois' questions:

[Begin recording in Creole] [Martineau] The U.S. plan to solve the crisis is still being studied. Before long, I suppose that President Aristide will give an answer, his opinion on this plan.

Concerning the people who are in Haiti—the political parties that want to refer to Article 149—there is one thing we would like to point out to them and I believe they already know: Article 148, 149, 250 or 3000, will not solve the crisis in Haiti because the crisis in Haiti does not lie there. The president's absence is not voluntary. It is an absence which came after a coup d'etat. That is the first thing they should know. I believe they know that. The second point to consider is that no matter the article they refer to, and no matter how they try to replace the president—the unconstitutional way they would like to do it —it will still not solve the crisis. Because the crisis is simply because Haiti, instead of being a country, a republic, has become a drug warehouse where people are killing people, manhandling people as they please. This crisis cannot be solved with articles. Haitians who favor democracy must stand up to change things so the country then has peace and with peace, it can rebuild itself.

[Renois] Mr. Martineau, some supporters and opponents of President Aristide asked the president to resign in order to allow a solution to the crisis. Does President

Aristide take into account those considerations? Does he take into account those positions. What does he intend to do?

[Martineau] No. I suppose those people should know who should resign under these conditions. I think the people who are killing people should resign. I think if those people can ask President Aristide to resign, they should first ask the Haitian people if they have changed their vote. Are they giving the Haitian people the right to say yes or no, whether they changed their 16 December vote? That is what they ought to do if they have the courage. I think there is a sort of cowardice when President Aristide is asked to resign and at the same time one kowtows to the military who are murdering people. I think those people know exactly who should resign under these circumstances—people who are killing, who are selling drugs and who are manhandling people—those are the people who should resign. In Haiti there should not be a resignation of peace, but rather a resignation of the pressure tactics of sorts.

[Renois] Mr. Martineau, it appears then that there is a bit of Indian wrestling going on between President Aristide's legitimacy and the authority of the current government or the military who overthrew him. In the end, it harms the Haitian people, since sanctions have been imposed. What is now being done by the government-in-exile to effect an improvement of the situation? Are there some steps being taken at that level?

[Martineau] Certainly some steps are being taken at that level. Meanwhile, do not forget that a president in any country is an advocate of the Constitution. Do we have a Constitution or do we not? No matter the compromise that can be reached, should those compromises violate the Constitution? In Haiti, everyone violates the Constitution, except one group, the group that favors democracy. The most stupid thing is that they are asking this group to resign. In this case, what is the future of elections, of the Constitution in Haiti? Every time a president is elected, if the military does not want him, they overthrow him and they assert that everything must change. Well! Some things must change in Haiti. But, it is not the Constitution, it is not the law. It is force, selfishness, and thievery that must change in Haiti.

[Renois] A final question Mr. Martineau. Does the government-in-exile hope the situation will change in favor of President Aristide so he can return to power?

[Martineau] It is not something that should change in favor of President Aristide. It must be in favor of the Haitian people. Yes, we hope that things will change and we hope that no matter what happens, the Haitian people will win. [end recording].

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Drug-Trafficking Report

PA0604154694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Drugs: U.S. Assessment"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department report on international drug trafficking is revealing in the sense it escapes the intentions of its writers. It exposes the weaknesses, incongruities, errors, and interference by the selfsame U.S. drug policy and shows, in that respect, Washington has gone from militarist attitudes of the Bush administration to something very close to inconsistency. Examples of that are: Although the U.S. State Department deplores the inefficiency or lack of will on the part of the governments of Bolivia, Peru, Panama, and Lebanon, among others, in the counterdrug-trafficking struggle, it refuses to place them on the list of "punished" nations, such as Iran, Syria, Burma, and Nigeria, for reasons of "national security;" that is, for reasons totally removed from the drug topic.

The U.S. document praises the Colombian Government for killing Pablo Escobar, top leader of the Medellin Cartel, despite the fact this, as well as other actions by Bogota authorities, did not significantly reduce the production and trafficking of cocaine, nor did it prevent the recent illegal production of heroin. In other words, the exhaustive violence unleashed in Colombia by the government's war against the Antioquia band has caused infinite deaths but has not reduced drug trafficking. In another sense, the report criticized Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff, a man of renowned moral authority in Colombia, for negotiating with certain narcotraffickers the reduction of their sentences in exchange for their surrender. U.S. officials can hardly condemn this practice, however, when it is a daily practice in U.S. courts for prosecutors to offer the accused, whether they are narcotraffickers, more lenient sentences, acquittals, and even money and protection in exchange for information.

Continuing with the examples, the U.S. State Department has stated the Peruvian Government is plagued by vast corruption, which makes it difficult to fight drugs, but does not say a single word about the same phenomenon in the United States. It omits the fact only the corruption of government employees can explain the massive entry of drugs to the nation which consumes the most drugs in the world.

Panama's case merits separate mention. With the pretext of fighting narcotrafficking, Panama was invaded violently by U.S. troops, a country whose institutions were destroyed and in which puppets to Washington's liking were placed in power. They are the same ones now accused by the State Department of doing nothing to eradicate the laundering of drug money. This fact constitutes either a demonstration a priori of how false the Bush administration arguments were or proof the interfering imposition of pro-U.S. governments is no guarantee that that drug policy will meet U.S. demands.

After viewing the confused, partial, and interventionist nature of the report issued yesterday in Washington, the inclusion of Mexico on the list of nations that "have complied" is encouraging only in the sense it can be considered a guarantee that U.S. authorities will not use the narcotrafficking topic as a pretext to exert undue pressure against our country, as they have done other times. The assessment of Mexico's counterdrug struggle and achievements, viewed as important and commendable, corresponds solely and exclusively to Mexicans' sovereignty and no foreign government has the legal or moral authority to give "grades" on this or other domestic issues.

Finally, and strangely enough, it should be noted the U.S. Government in its report is capable of setting aside its anti-Cuban phobia, giving a report devoid of ideology, although no less interfering, on the efforts by the Havana government in the counterdrug-trafficking struggle. Concerning the rest, the document presented by the U.S. State Department yesterday depicts a combination of deplorable attitudes, which hinder reaching international agreements that are needed to confront the drug plight with a global, multilateral spirit, to attack simultaneously consumption, production, and the illegal sale of drugs, respectful of sovereignties.

President Salinas Welcomes Nicaragua's Chamorro

PA0604180394 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has welcomed Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro to Mexico on a three-day official visit. President Salinas met with President Chamorro at the National Presidential Palace. After listening to both countries' national anthems which were played in the palace gardens, President Salinas said during President Chamorro's visit the two leaders will expand several current agreements to provide greater prosperity and justice for both Mexicans and Nicaraguans.

[Begin Salinas recording] During these times of world change, we must join efforts, increase trade, and complement each other's economies. We will move forward by taking specific action. The challenge is to take advantage of our capabilities, our enthusiasm, and the common causes that bond us. [end recording]

Nicaraguan President Faints

PA0604204294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2015 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Guadalajara (Mexico), 6 Apr (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was transferred to a hospital in Guadalajara after fainting today in this Mexican city. Chamorro arrived today in Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, to attend a forum entitled "Women of the Americas: Participation and Development."

According to the private television station Televisa, Chamorro was taken to the El Carmen Hospital in Guadalajara for medical attention. No information is available about what caused her to faint.

Chamorro Denies Fainting

PA0604223094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2149 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Guadalajara, 6 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Today, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro denied she had fainted in Guadalajara, as has been reported by some media. "I am well and I do not wish anyone harm," the Nicaraguan president said upon leaving the hotel where she is staying in this city while participating in the forum entitled; "Women in the Americas; Participation and Development."

Armando Morquecho, government spokesman for the western state of Jalisco, said Maria Magdalena Zeco de Posadas, wife of Uruguay's representative to the IDB, was taken to the emergency room at Del Carmen Hospital. Morquecho explained that Ignacio de Posadas, Uruguay's representative to the IDB, had accompanied his wife to the hospital, where she was transferred to the emergency ward for treatment for an asthmatic-bronchitis attack. Morquecho said the commotion at the hotel occurred at the same time that the Nicaraguan president was arriving, thus causing confusion and giving rise to reports that Chamorro had fainted.

Chamorro will participate this afternoon at the forum's full session, where the theme will be: "The road to Beijing, preparations for the Fourth Women's Conference."

Chamorro on Achievements in Reconciliation

PA0604232694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Interview with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro by Jacobo Zabludovsky, at the Hotel Presidente on 4 April; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[Text] [Zabludovsky] Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the president of Nicaragua. Good evening, madam.

[Chamorro] Good evening, Don Jacobo, I am delighted to hear you again here in Mexico, after your visit to Nicaragua.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you for granting us this interview.

[Chamorro] It is a pleasure, my friend.

[Zabludovsky] Madam, President Salinas welcomed you today, and you spoke. What did you discuss?

[Chamorro] You know, Don Jacobo, my dear friend, that when colleagues meet, we must talk about our sadness, our happiness, and about the future. I am happy to be here in Mexico, and I feel that we as presidents will reap fruits beneficial to the two nations.

[Zabludovsky] When you took office as president of Nicaragua, I remember well that people said this was not a job for a woman. They said it was no position for a woman.

[Chamorro] Now you have made me laugh, Don Jacobo.

[Zabludovsky] [Laughs] Now that several years have passed, how would you evaluate the situation?

[Chamorro] Jacobo, you have said that being president of Nicaragua was no place for a woman, but the people said they wanted it—do not forget that voting is secret—so here I am.

I would like to say that there has been a total change in my country. We went from sadness to happiness. We have found profound reconciliation among all Nicaraguans. We have found forgiveness, which we needed after so many years of pain and distortion from past dictatorships. What can a nation do? We must find reconciliation among ourselves, to attain freedom and democracy, to reconstruct our nation, control and reduce militarism, and create a small Army, just as we always wanted. I am speaking about Nicaragua, of course, as I visit Mexico. General Sandino once said, as did former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres Ferrer, we need a small Army. You mentioned militarism, and I agree. We need a small Army in our country, which had 3 million inhabitants when I took office and has 4.5 million inhabitants now.

I believe I am leaving a good legacy for all Nicaraguans. I prefer not to talk about other countries because I inherited my country. You know well enough that one should not interfere in any other country's affairs. We should respect and listen to each other.

[Zabludovsky] Madam President, when you took office in Nicaragua, you defied many lines of thought. You did not pay much attention to pressure for Sandinism, the system that preceded you, to disappear. Not only did you ignore those perspectives, but you accepted many other viewpoints and political trends. You gave Gen. Humberto Ortega, who came from the system before you, the Defense Ministry. Now he feels he should be your successor. Do you think all this has been positive?

[Chamorro] Let me say, Jacobo, that when I took office four years ago, I did so with the secret vote of all the people in Nicaragua who wanted to vote for a change in our country. It is true there were authoritarian people from the immediate past and even from before that. The Nicaraguans who have come home during the last four years want a change. Can you imagine? More than 1.5 million people have returned to Nicaragua. What does that mean? It means change. What has my mission been? It has been to change things, to find reconciliation, and to learn how to forgive each other. You speak of one person: Humberto Ortega, who used to be called Gen. Humberto Ortega. Allow me to say that there will come a time when things will have to change for Gen. Humberto Ortega, as well as anyone else with a military rank

living in a democratic country. This is not being a dictator. It is freedom in democracy.

Now, after many years, I am here on Televisa talking about my country. What do I want for my country? I want to get rid of totalitarianism, not only the Sandinists but also the Somozists. I lived through many years of that, and I want my country to be democratic, free, and sovereign, thanks to the people's vote.

The generals must change. I have reduced the Army. They must continue to be Nicaraguans and stay in Nicaragua because they have no reason to flee the country. They do not have to leave Nicaragua. They have to continue being Nicaraguans. Everyone must learn how to lose.

What does learning to lose mean? It means that when I finish my term I will hand over the country. I am very sorry if there is someone out there who does not like me. I am here for my country, for love, and for reconciliation.

I told Humberto Ortega on 2 September that there must be changes in Nicaragua. He will step down very soon in 1994, if not sooner. In any case, he will step down. What does step down mean? It means to make changes democratically. He is a Nicaraguan personality who has done plenty for his country as well.

[Zabludovsky] Is there reelection in Nicaragua?

[Chamorro] As you well know, four years ago I was handed a country where there had been a dictatorship. We are now in a democratic country, where we are making constitutional changes. We will see if the National Assembly wants there to be reelection or not.

Let me move ahead here, before you ask me: Dona Violeta, are you going to run for reelection? No, my dear friend, enough. I have done enough for my country. I am 64 years old and proud of it. I am proud to say that I feel happy to have worked for my country. It is difficult to heal wounds like ours. Some like it, and others do not.

I would have preferred a politician to run the country, but to each his own. Praise the Lord. The people wanted Violeta to be here, so here I am. When they no longer want me here, I will gladly go home, and I will still be a Nicaraguan. I would not leave.

[Zabludovsky] What would happen if the people ask you to run for reelection?

[Chamorro] If the people want me to run again, I would have to think about it, Jacobo. Remember... [pauses] No, it has been enough. I think we should leave it to the politicians. They would probably do better than I.

[Zabludovsky] Madam President, thank you, and my respect.

[Chamorro] It was my pleasure, and I hope to see you in Nicaragua soon.

[Zabludovsky] Very well. Good night, Madam President.

[Chamorro] Good night, dear friend.

Costa Rican President Interviewed on Visit

PA0704011294 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Interview with Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier by Jacobo Zabludovsky; place not given; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[Excerpt] [Zabludovsky] We will interview Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier. Good evening, Mr. President.

[Calderon] Good evening, Jacobo. It is a pleasure to be here tonight. This is a very important day for my country because the free trade agreement with Mexico will create extraordinary opportunities for development in Costa Rica. Our country will be able to integrate its economy with Mexico's great economy, an economy with 90 million participants.

[Zabludovsky] Could you briefly tell us how the agreements signed today will benefit Costa Rica and Mexico?

[Calderon] We must stress one very important aspect: Mexico has shown its solidarity with Latin America. One of Mexico's most outstanding foreign policy achievements was the free trade agreement with the United States, which made it possible to integrate the Mexican economy into the world's strongest economy. This creates jobs and will bring development to Mexico, well-being to the Mexican people, and more opportunities for all.

By the same token, our free trade agreement with Mexico means that Costa Rica is entering a country with a population of 90 million citizens, a country with a growing economy, a country that will become part of the First World at the beginning of the 21st century through the free trade agreement.

What does it mean for Mexico? As always, Mexico has shown its solidarity with Latin America. The free trade agreement with the United States and Canada has made Mexico a stronger country that has opened its doors to its Latin American neighbors to give us the same opportunities.

[Zabludovsky] Last night Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro expressed her hope that Nicaragua will also join this agreement. Do you think the free trade agreement between Costa Rica and Mexico can be extended to other countries in the area?

[Calderon] Definitely. That has been President Salinas de Gortari's wish from the beginning. At a meeting in Tuxtla Gutierrez three years ago, Central American countries agreed to sign a free trade agreement with Mexico. Costa Rica had the opportunity to advance and persevered until the agreement was signed today. The rest of Central America will follow to acquire the same advantages that Mexico has given Costa Rica today. [passage omitted]

PRI Member Resigns Over Party Differences

PA0604122494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera, member of the Legislative Assembly for the Federal District, explains that his departure from the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] is because he does not agree with the way his party's new presidential candidate was elected.

[Begin Sodi de la Tijera recording] I am leaving because of the way the new candidate was chosen. As far as the candidate is concerned, I have no rapport with nor do I believe he has the experience to become president of the republic. It would not be compatible to belong to a party and not agree with the candidate or the aspiring candidates. This is why I decided to resign. [end recording]

It is expected that tomorrow, Thursday [as heard], he will make his departure from the PRI official. Meanwhile, Rene Bejaranom, Democratic Revolutionary Party leader in Mexico City, said his party would be willing to offer a Senate candidacy for the Federal District to Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera.

Salinas Announces Bean, Corn Price Reductions

PA0604122594 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has announced a reduction of bean and corn prices as of 1 May. Salinas headed the national meeting of Rural Community Supply Councils. In the Lopez Mateos Room at Los Pinos presidential residence, the president said bean prices will be reduced 15 percent and corn prices will be reduced from 80 to 65 centavos per kilogram at rural stores, a move that will benefit over 20 million Mexicans. The president thus addressed almost 300 community supply representatives.

[Begin Salinas recording] The implementation of Program of Direct Support to the Countryside means that the government's subsidy will go directly to the peasants, without the intervention of middlemen. [end recording]

For the first time 2 million peasants will receive direct support for their land parcels. The president listened to the problems outlined by three Community Supply Council representatives. He responded to each of their requests, assuring them that kernel corn will not be replaced and that flour will only be complementary. He promised that the corn supply will be sufficient and of good quality. The president presented 10 registered deeds for civilian partnerships.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0604170294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 5 April.

Sources at the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (Secofi) have said the Mexican Government will launch a "great offensive" against the importation of subsidized agricultural products from the United States, Canada, and European countries. Secofi sources explained a government investigation on imported wheat, milk, and garlic will be initiated.

Meanwhile, Secofi reported the official gazette has published two antidumping resolutions on importing dioctilftalate [dioctilftalato] and sodium carbonate from Germany and the United States, respectively. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 29 March 94 p 20)

The government's 1993 anti-inflation measures slowed production, sales, and jobs, with ensuing effects in income levels. The slow progress in economic activity resulted in a 1.2-percent reduction in the gross domestic product (GDP) for the first time since 1987, according to a report by the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce (Concanaco). The report revealed the manufacturing industry decreased by 1.5 percent last year, while the commerce, restaurant, and hotel sectors declined by 1.2 percent. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 29 March 94 p 28)

The production of important raw materials by Pemex Petrochemical, a subsidiary of Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), shrunk by approximately 14 percent last year due to the closure of obsolete plants and the difficult situation of internal and external markets. Ethylene and polyethylene production declined 12 percent while ammonium and methanol fell 20 percent and 15 percent respectively. Pemex Petrochemical concluded that concerning synthetic fibers, the importation of clothes, fabric, and textiles has reduced internal production, thereby affecting the demand for raw materials produced by Pemex. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 March 94 p 18)

Foreign investments in Mexico during the first quarter of this year increased to over $4 billion, namely, 143 percent over the amount registered for the same period in 1993, Secofi authorities reported on 30 March. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 31 March 94)

The commercial representative of the Chilan Embassy in Mexico has reported bilateral trade between Mexico and Chile grew 38 percent during 1993, totaling $340.5 million in transactions. The official said Mexico had a positive trade balance of $78.9 million. The Chilean diplomat explained bilateral trade was boosted by the Economic Supplementary Agreement, which became effective in January 1992. The official concluded Chile exported $130.8-million worth of goods to Mexico

during 1993, while it imported more than $200 million worth of goods. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2349 GMT 31 March 94)

As of 31 March 33 products, including beans, corn, bread, and wheat flour, have been deregulated. Among the deregulated products are fuels like gasoline, diesel fuel, natural and liquefied gas, and 20 primary petrochemicals. According to Secofi, the prices of these products will be regulated by the law of supply and demand. Secofi sources have concluded this decision was made based on the fact the opening of the economy guarantees availability of products for internal consumption.

Meanwhile in Washington, the World Bank approved a $450-million loan to Mexico on 31 March. The loan will be used to improve quality and efficiency of elementary school education in 10 of the poorest states of Mexico. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 1 April 94)

On 1 April, business sector officials reported productive efficiency in the country rose 8.8 percent during 1993, following 4- and 7.2-percent increases in 1991 and 1992, respectively. The Confederation of Industrial Chambers has noted the importance of production efficiency amid high interest rates and a 9-percent annual inflation. A study published by the magazine INDUSTRIA has revealed productivity in growing sectors increased 18.4 percent on average. Among the sectors with higher growth rates are the basic metal industries, with 30 percent; nonmetal mineral industries, with 12.7 percent; the manufacturing industry, with 12.3 percent; lumber production, with 7.2 percent; the chemical industry, with 6.5 percent; and the food industry, with 4.5 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2141 GMT 1 April 94)

Secofi has reported that during the present six-year term, the auto industry has invested more than $10.5 billion in Mexico and created more than 210,000 jobs. Secofi said Chrysler, the Ford Motor Company, and Nissan were among the companies that invested the most. Investments totaling approximately $2.4 billion are expected this year in the auto industry. Those investments are expected to generate 18,000 new jobs and to result in the manufacture of more than 1 million vehicles for the second consecutive year. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 4 April 94 pp 48, 22)

Luis German Carcoba Garcia, president of the Business Coordinating Council (CEE), has said population growth exceeded economic growth for the first time in recent years. The business leader said it would be erroneous to close the gap between population growth and economic dynamism by using "populist policies." According to the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), the economy grew 3.75 percent less than the population increase in 1993. Last year the GDP grew by .4 percent, while the population grew by 1.9 percent. The National Institute of Geography, Statistics, and Data Processing (INEGI) has remarked that by the end of 1993 the total population numbered 85.8 million people, while the GDP totaled $324 billion. INEGI concluded per capita income averaged $3,760 in 1993. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 4 April 94 pp 1, 22)

Correction to Zedillo Discusses National Situation

PA0604124394

The following correction pertains to the item headlined: "Zedillo Discusses National Situation," published in the 6 April LATIN AMERICAN daily report, page 7-13:

Page 10, column one, second full paragraph, first sentence make read: ...problems. How do you plan to deal with the security situation if you are elected president, Mr. Zedillo?

[Zedillo] The security situation and, generally speaking, injustice require fairer laws. They also require an apparatus for prosecution and administration of justice capable of enforcing those laws clearly, precisely, and justly, as the name of the apparatus spells out. This is easily said, but it entails an enormous amount of work. I spoke about fair laws a moment ago. We have to examine the laws we have one by one, to make sure they are fair laws. We must recognize our judicial system's faults, flaws, and evident shortcomings. This includes all facets of it, beginning with law enforcement and the police. I believe we must be honest in admitting that we .... (supplying dropped portion)

El Salvador

Electoral Tribunal Declares Results Final

PA0704044094 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Decree No. 2 issued by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, TSE, at the TSE headquarters in San Salvador; read by unidentified TSE secretary—recorded]

[Text] Decree No. 2
The Supreme Electoral Tribunal,
Whereas,
1. In accordance with the Electoral Code, the elections for president and vice president of the Republic were held throughout the country on 20 March 1994.
2. Since the term specified in Article 324 of the Electoral Code has expired and no writ has been filed to challenge the final results, it is appropriate to declare the results of the aforementioned elections final.

Therefore:
According to what is stated and according to Article No. 80, No. 6, and Articles No. 261 and 265 of the Electoral Code,
Decrees:
Article 1: Declare final the results of the elections for president and vice president of the Republic on 20 March 1994, as stated in Final Tally Sheet No. 1 issued at 1400 on 30 March 1994.
Article 2: Publish this decree in the official gazette and the newspapers with the widest circulation.
Article 3: This decree will be effective on the day of its publication in the official gazette.

Issued at the TSE in San Salvador, 6 April 1994.

Decrees Runoff Elections

PA0704044494 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Decree No. 3 issued by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, TSE, at the TSE headquarters in San Salvador; read by unidentified TSE secretary—recorded]

[Text] Decree No. 3
The Supreme Electoral Tribunal
Whereas:
1. In accordance with the Electoral Code, the elections for president and vice president of the Republic were held throughout the country on 20 March 1994.
2. Since the term specified in Article 324 of the Electoral Code has expired and no writ has been filed to challenge the final results, it is appropriate to declare the results of the aforementioned elections final.
3. In accordance with the Final Tally Sheet, none of the candidates in the elections for president and vice president of the Republic obtained the absolute majority specified by Article 261, Paragraph 1 of the Electoral Code, so it is appropriate to convoke runoff elections with the participation of the Nationalist Republican Alliance and the coalition comprised of the National Revolutionary Movement, Democratic Convergence, and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, as they received the largest number of valid votes in the aforementioned elections.

Therefore,
According to what is stated and according to Article No. 80 of the Constitution and Articles 79, Nos. 2, 261, and 265 of the Electoral Code,
Decrees:
Article 1: Convoke the electorate, which is all Salvadoran citizens eligible to vote, to runoff elections so on 24 April 1994 they may elect by free, direct, egalitarian, and secret vote the persons who will hold the posts of president and vice president of the Republic for the period beginning 1 June 1994 and ending 31 May 1999.
Article 2: Publish this decree in the official gazette and in the newspapers with the widest circulation.
Article 3: This decree will be effective on the day of its publication in the official gazette.

Issued at the TSE in San Salvador, 6 April 1994.

Guatemala

Deputy Chinchilla Shot, in Critical Condition

PA0704010894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2349 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—According to local media sources, Revolutionary Party Deputy Obdulio Chinchilla was wounded today when unidentified persons shot him as he was leaving a hotel in the capital. This is the second attack against Chinchilla in less than a year.

The legislator, finance committee chairman, and chairman of the commission studying reforms to the electoral and political parties laws, was shot several times, but there is still no information on the seriousness of his injuries, Radio Sonora reported.

The motives of Chinchilla's attackers are still unknown. Chinchilla was the target of another attack months ago which caused him to lose one eye. This attack has occurred five days after Constitutionality Court President Epaminondas Gonzalez was assassinated in front of his house. No one has claimed responsibility for that attack.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2342 GMT transmits a report which states that "Chinchilla was transferred in critical condition to a private hospital." The report adds that "one suspect has apparently been arrested."]

URNG Asks for UN Verification; Condemns Slaying

PA0604144394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0955 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has

requested the immediate establishment of the international verification mechanism agreed on with the government on 29 March and condemned the assassination of Constitutionality Court President Eduardo Epaminondas Gonzalez.

On 5 April, a URNG communique revealed that "compliance with the Global Agreement on Human Rights and the prompt establishment of the agreed verification mechanism by the United Nations constitute the first trial by fire" of the negotiation process. The human rights agreement includes UN verification of respect for constitutional rights in Guatemala and compliance with the agreement's points.

In addition, the URNG asked the government of Ramiro de Leon Carpio to clarify the incident against Constitutionality President Gonzalez on 1 April. According to Guatemalan authorities, Gonzalez died on 3 April after being shot by unidentified people while driving to his home in Guatemala City.

In the communique released in Mexico City, the URNG asked "that the assassination be cleared up as soon as possible," considering this incident "is within the jurisdiction and scope of the security forces, where it originated." In the guerrillas' opinion, the slaying of Gonzalez "constitutes flagrant provocation of Guatemalan society and the international community," following the signing of the Global Agreement on Human Rights in Mexico City on 29 March.

In the communique signed by the four URNG commanders, the rebels rejected the implementation of a state of exception, which they consider part of "a preconceived plan to limit the freedom of expression of civic forces." The URNG General Staff urged the government and the Guatemalan Army to comply with the human rights agreement, which it called a "fundamental step" in the negotiation of the peace process in Guatemala.

The URNG believes the presidential offer to grant the rebels amnesty reflects "existing contradictions (within the government) and contravenes the negotiation process." Shortly after the signing of the agreement was disclosed, President de Leon Carpio announced the possibility of granting the URNG militants amnesty, an offer rebel leaders believe "calls into question the government's will to conclude negotiations."

Honduras

President Reina Talks About Plot Against Him

PA0604150494 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1328 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by Roberto Reyes from Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Force Base in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] [Reyes] General Luis Alonso Discua, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, [words indistinct] We are going to try to interview the top military chief now that he is preparing to receive a report by Air Force authorities. Good morning, General, this is HRN [Voz de Honduras Network] [words indistinct], and we want to ask you about the latest reports [words indistinct] in the country. We are now trying to interview Gen. Discua at the Air Force base.

General, we would like to ask you about the action by.... [pauses] It is impossible. Security is not letting us talk to Gen. Discua. Following Discua's car, we see President Carlos Roberto Reina's car approaching. We are going to try and wait for the president to arrive to learn his views. The general did not want to talk. He flatly refused [words indistinct] to answer our questions. The president's car is approaching Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Force Base. Gustavo Torres seems to be helping us improve the sound quality from the base. We are going to interview the president, if he is ready to make a statement, if he wants to talk to the media. The president's white car is reaching the area where he will get out. We will try to carry his remarks on HRN, as he is now getting out of his car.

Good morning, Mr. President. HRN is voicing the people's concern over the reports of a plot against you.

[Reina] I think this is a warning for anyone involved in public life or governing the state. Deep down, these are criminal activities by mobsters; that is my impression. Nobody is immune to those dangers. I have the support of the majority of the people, to whom I am grateful for their tremendous demonstration of support in the wake of this development, which we all must express regret over and condemn. These are no longer [words indistinct] Mexico has recently become the victim of this kind of turmoil, which, of course, forces us to be very careful with these criminals.

[Reyes] We are going to listen to the president.

[Reina] I give it no credence. I am saying this is something to be condemned, rejected, but real [words indistinct].

[Reyes] Different sectors of society have supported you [words indistinct], but some have said this may be [words indistinct].

[Reina] There are always those who have different opinions, which I respect.

[Unidentified reporter] Why [words indistinct], Mr. President?

[Reina] These are criminal acts. Any public official.... [pauses] And reporters should be careful too.

[Reporter] Politics have nothing to do with this, Mr. President?

[Reina] No, no. These are criminal acts.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Reina] Out of courtesy, and because we are friends [passage indistinct]. Some calls of support and solidarity [words indistinct] for the president of all Hondurans.

[Reyes] Have you ruled out politics?

[Reina] Yes, I have.

[Reyes] These were remarks by President Reina from Hernan Acosta Mejia.

Commission to Investigate Plot

PA0604220394 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Apr 94 p 54

[Text] Last night, the National Congress appointed the Constitutional Compliance Commission [Comision de Cumplimiento Constitucional] to monitor the investigation into the plot to assassinate President Carlos Roberto Reina and establish the motives behind it all.

Congress President Carlos Roberto Flores Facusse explained that he understands the concern of the opposition political parties. They are annoyed because Lucio Izaguirre, President Reina's private secretary, charged there were opposition plans to destabilize the government. "This democracy is costing the Honduran people dearly, particularly the political parties, without whom there would be no state of law," he said. "To generalize in such a way is improper and constitutes an attack on the country's institutional structure. This is why we are taking these charges seriously and instructing the Constitutional Compliance Commission to stay abreast of the trends this investigation may uncover," he said.

He said appropriate measures will be taken if, after examining the results of the investigation, he finds reason enough to believe that false accusations have been made that could violate the state of law or damage the dignity of the political parties. He also demanded the commission file a detailed report to the congressional plenum, explaining how well founded these charges are in order to reach the proper decisions.

The commission members are Jorge Roberto Maradiaga, Rodolfo Irias Navas, Jose Raul Pineda Alvarado, Oscar Armando Avila Banegas, Gautama Fonseca, Hector Ramon Trochez, and Luis German Lagos.

Legislators React to Assassination Plot

PA0604212994 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Apr 94 p 55

[Text] Members of the legislative branch reacted with rejection, condemnation, uncertainty, and doubt upon learning of the plot against President Carlos Roberto Reina. Although many refused to comment, others expressed surprised at the report because they had met with the president that morning and he did not say anything to them. Congressmen also referred to criticism by several Hondurans who are accusing the government of using the situation as a smokescreen to cover up the economic measures, noting that if that were the case, it would be very irresponsible.

Rafael Pineda Ponce, National Congress first vice president, called the act condemnable "because no one has the right to take the life of any citizen, much less the president." In his opinion, the state security organizations should conduct the investigation because their constitutional mission is to guarantee the Hondurans' lives and property. If the idea was to distract people to stop them from criticizing the rising fuel and milk prices, that would be really irresponsible because the country is ready to make a social pact among all political, social, and economic forces. "The country does not belong to the Reina administration or anyone in particular. It belongs to everyone, from the most arrogant and haughty to the humblest citizens," he added.

Liberal Alberto Orellana said he was surprised by the report and deplores the incident. "Whether we like it or not, Reina is the democratically elected president and we must condemn such a situation," he said. He did not rule out the possibility that the thwarted attack was a result of the people's desperation over spiraling costs and dire poverty. "We can think of so many things, things that someone starving might do, but hopefully it is nothing like that, only a false alarm," he added.

Roberto Micheletti, secretary general [of the Liberal Party Central Executive Council], said he was surprised by the report and termed the situation loathsome. "If it is confirmed, I hope the responsible parties will be turned over to the courts and sentenced to the full extent of the law because this country elected its leaders democratically and we want to live in peace," he stated.

When asked about accusations that the incident could be a smokescreen, he said "if that were the case, it is wrong and undignified. To show such disrespect for the president's life, to cover up a situation that we Hondurans are experiencing, is wrong and reproachable," he said.

Liberal wing head Santiago David Amador condemned any attack against the life of a human being, in this case the president of the Republic. He said he is waiting for a report from the Armed Forces and asked God "to enlighten the minds and attitudes that bring disgrace to the people." He stated he is satisfied with the intelligence service reports and ruled out the possibility that the report was made to hide the country's real situation. "No way, one thing cannot be compared to another. One is an economic issue, and the other is a human life," he said.

Nationalist Jorge Zelaya termed the report dubious because "it is strange military intelligence did not issue it, just as they did not issue the report when there was an attack against former President Roberto Suazo Cordova. Strangely enough, the report comes from the Government Ministry when it happens that economic decisions have been made and measures taken at the same time," he said.

Cesar Castellanos, chief of the nationalist wing, said there is some doubt because Honduran and Nicaraguan military authorities have been at odds over the reports they have given. "I would like to wait a little longer and learn about the investigations because I have found a series of contradictions and facts that are disconcerting. It has been 15 days and nobody has been arrested and there is no specific investigation," he noted. He added that the statements being made clearly show the military authorities were not properly informed and now they are trying to say that they knew about something when they really did not.

Alleged Plotter Claims Innocence

PA0604193294 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Apr 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Marta Marina Gonzalez and Arquimedes Gonzalez]

[Text] Santiago Rivas Betancourt is 27 years old and allegedly one of the terrorists who were supposed to kill Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina for $400,000. He told BARRICADA: "I have never had anything to do with such a plan. I went to Honduras to buy spare parts. We are clean. We did not plan any murder. I am incapable of becoming involved in such a plan," he has said, expressing his willingness to appear before police authorities to clarify the entire situation, because, he said "I am innocent."

Betancourt said he did in fact travel to Honduras with Luis Rene Quintero Gonzalez and Jose Arguello Hernandez at the beginning of March. They went to buy spare automotive parts. When they arrived in Honduras, he added, they were robbed at the San Miguel market in Comayaguela and "left penniless." They decided to go to the Nicaraguan Consulate. The ambassador gave them 100 lempiras so they could return to Nicaragua. He recalled they had requested a 90-day multiple entry permit. After the robbery, he said, "I had to ask an uncle, who lives in Honduras, for thirty lempiras to complete the return fare and then travel back to Nicaragua alone."

He admitted meeting Luis Rene Quintero Gonzalez, the alleged informant, by pure chance. He met Jose Arguello Hernandez, another alleged plotter, when they were cell mates serving time at Esteli Penitentiary. Santiago Rivas Betancourt said he was arrested last year for insulting a law officer. Unofficially it is reported, however, he served time for illegal possession of weapons and drugs. He also said he was a former member of the Sandinist People's Army, where he served as a battalion chief in the Army's 5th Infantry Company, in the country's first region. Betancourt lost his left hand in a mine explosion, just before being discharged. This happened in 1990, when he switched to civilian life.

Unofficial reports state Luis Rene Quintero Gonzalez, the alleged informant of the "plot," has an automotive body shop near Bello Horizonte Rotonda. None of the mechanics working in that area was able to give any information about Quintero. They did say, however, the police had been there at 1830 looking for the body shop and its alleged owner. A reliable government source has confirmed to BARRICADA the police were on Quintero Gonzalez' trail. They had not yet arrested him when we went to press. Unofficial reports state Quintero lived in the neighborhood of Fundeci, Managua. It was impossible to contact him there either.

Minister Asks for Time To Handle U.S. Complaints

PA0604232494 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From "The Morning Paper" newscast]

[Text] Honduras has asked the U.S. Government for time to settle all property expropriation demands involving U.S. citizens. According to Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar, Honduras has promised an adequate solution, but any solution must always be within the law.

Republican Congressmen have proposed the suspension of economic aid to Honduras as a means of pressuring for the solution of demands by U.S. citizens who have been victims of expropriations. They also asked that the United States oppose the granting of multilateral credits to governments that do not respect the rights of their citizens abroad. Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar reacted to the Republican Congressmen's proposal as follows.

[Begin Paz Aguilar recording] The U.S. Congress is now debating the general issue of expropriation of property belonging to U.S. citizens abroad. Honduras falls in this group because there are a number of cases, apparently 10 or 11, in Honduras. We have asked the U.S. Government to give us some time to solve all these claims. You may recall that these claims are over four years old; they existed prior to our administration. They are very old claims. They are now pressing for a solution.

The Honduran Government's position is that this is going to be solved appropriately, within the law, respecting the law, analyzing each case. Each case is different. It is possible that in some cases the claimants are correct, while in others they may not be.

Another matter is that under international law, it is normal for foreign citizens who live in our country, when they feel unprotected, when justice is denied, or when there is a delay in the administration of justice, to appeal to their diplomatic missions and their corresponding governments to defend their interests. International law establishes this. [end recording]

Although Honduras recognizes that some expropriations cases do exist, the foreign minister said not all U.S. citizens' complaints in Honduras are specifically related to this issue.

[Begin recording] [Paz Aguilar] I would like to say that not all are expropriations cases. Some are disputes, some conflicts. These might be between Hondurans and U.S. citizens; these might be between the Honduran state and U.S. citizens. Therefore, each case must be analyzed. I believe whoever is right will win the case in our courts, as these are the only bodies that can bestow justice.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there a time limit for Honduras to solve these cases?

[Paz Aguilar] What we have said is this new government has barely taken office. We have not been in power for even 70 days. We said it would be unfair to sanction Honduras for events that occurred in the past. We are only asking for an opportunity; we are asking for some time to resolve these problems, within the law's framework. [end recording]

Reports presented by Republicans to the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee suggest that visas be denied to foreigners who are deemed responsible for confiscating U.S. citizens' properties in their respective territories. The foreign minister was asked if this was related to the U.S. Embassy's decision to deny former Immigration Director [words indistinct] a visa.

[Begin Paz Aguilar recording] These are merely [word indistinct] measures; they are pressure tactics. Nevertheless, I would like to reiterate that the right to grant a visa to enter a nation is that nation's option. That means the United States has every right to grant or deny a visa. Honduras can do the same, or, it does the same. It is the Honduran Government that decides if it grants a visa to a foreign citizens. [end recording]

Honduras, along with Nicaraguan and Costa Rica, was singled out. There are 1,603 cases of the expropriation of U.S. citizens' property between the three countries.

Nicaragua

Presidency Spokeswoman Denies Fainting Reports

PA0704021694 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Statement by Maria Alicia Talavera Sevilla, assistant director of the Presidency's Social Communication Directorate, in Managua; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast—live]

[Text] We want to deny all information disseminated by cable news agencies from Guadalajara implying that President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro suffered a fainting spell at noon today shortly before giving a speech at the Regional Forum on Women's Participation and Development sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank in that Mexican city.

We talked directly with President Chamorro a few minutes ago as she was about to leave the hospital, excuse me, the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Guadalajara, where she and the official delegation accompanying her are staying during their visit to Mexico. We will now present you—through Radio Corporacion, which has so kindly offered us the opportunity—a brief statement by President Chamorro. We recorded this a few minutes ago here at the Social Communications Directorate.

[Begin Chamorro recording] Hello, this is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of Nicaragua. I would like to deny the news that has reached Nicaragua—being sent from this city or wherever—that I fainted and am about to die. I have never fainted in my life, thank God. There has been some confusion. I was told about this and my blood ran cold. A lady from Uruguay or Paraguay.... [pauses] Where is this lady from? Uruguay, I think. Anyway, she was the one who fainted. I do not know her and I do not know what her condition is now. I hope she is feeling better because you feel bad when you are sick.

Personally speaking, I have not fainted. I feel very well. I will go and represent Nicaragua in a short while. I will talk about women at the bank's event so....[pauses] I repeat, I have never fainted in my life. Never, knock on wood. I have not fainted, I am not in poor health, and I have not given up—nor have I (?betrayed) my homeland. Please, I want all Nicaraguans who love Violeta to know I am all right, thank God, and that I will come home tomorrow. [end recording]

This was a brief statement by Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, who confirmed that she did not have a fainting spell as was reported from Guadalajara. She also confirmed her return to Managua tomorrow. Thank you and good afternoon.

Deputies on Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering

PA0604194894 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] With approval of the new narcotics law being debated by the National Assembly, Nicaragua will establish the legal framework for combating drug trafficking more efficiently, but the law alone is not sufficient, Deputy Carlos Gallo, chairman of the Human Rights Committee, has said. We need resources and assistance even from the U.S. State Department.

[Begin Gallo recording] The State Department can help in obtaining assistance for Nicaragua's police apparatus to combat it. You know how precarious the National Police budget is. [end recording]

The law is also being drafted to fight money laundering, which has not taken hold in Nicaragua.

[Begin Luis Humberto Guzman, Christian Democratic Union deputy and National Assembly president, recording, in progress] ...the report does not review the volume of financial transactions in Nicaragua's banks.

We could not necessarily talk of money laundering, at least not for now. [end recording]

Nicaragua has not reached the level of drug trafficking of other countries.

[Begin Guzman recording] Perhaps Nicaragua's only implication is that its territory and air space are used as a drug-trafficking and transshipment point. [end recording]

The law may be passed in the next four weeks. Controversial topics will be DEA operations in our country and the extradition of nationals, something our Constitution bars.

Bank President Denies Money-Laundering

PA0604190994 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Apr 94 pp1, 10

[Report by Fidelina Suarez]

[Text] The price of the dollar on the parallel market dropped 1 percent in the past three months, and the current shortage of cash (cordobas) in circulation has led to a dollar surplus. For that reason, exchange houses are selling the dollar at 6.65 cordobas. Managers of the 14 exchange houses that operate in the country and the people who sell dollars on the streets are concerned, for they have been unable to make major operations due to a shortage of cordobas.

Exchange houses have even bought the dollar at a price higher than the official rate, which yesterday was set at 6.53 cordobas, whereas in other cases the dollar was sold for 6.52 cordobas. "The price has not settled since last year, when we closed with a selling price of 6.65 cordobas to the dollar," Multicambios General Manager Jose Dolores Gomez has said.

In addition, the U.S. State Department released a report criticizing the Nicaraguan Government for its lack of initiative in controlling "money laundering" and drug trafficking. The State Department report stated "money laundering" is especially serious in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. "There is no doubt Nicaragua's tremendous financial and political problems make it the perfect target for drug traffickers," the document has stated.

Nicaraguan Central Bank President Jose Evenor Taboada denied "money laundering" is done in Nicaragua through the national financial system. "The Superintendency of Banks and Other Financial Institutions and the BCN [Central Bank of Nicaragua] follow up every day all the transactions conducted through the financial system and exchange houses, and there are no large-scale operations indicating to us that money laundering is taking place," he said.

Taboada said that based on the stability observed in bank transactions, there is no possibility that "money laundering" is done that way. "For example, there is no evidence huge amounts of money have been withdrawn from the financial system overnight," he said.

Concerning the dollar surplus, the official said the dollarization of the economy still persists in the country, mainly in sectors that in some way sense instability. "Certain people cannot forget about the inflation and devaluation period, although we insist the situation has changed. We hope they will feel more secure with the signing of the ESAF [Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility], so we can reverse this sentiment," Taboada said.

At the start of Holy Week, the price of the dollar had dropped to 6.60 cordobas. The exchange house Multicambios did not miss the opportunity of selling it at up to 6.55 cordobas yesterday. "We need cordobas, and that is why we often have to sell at that price, barely a point above the official price, which today (yesterday) was 6.53.77 cordobas," Gomez has said.

Exchange dealer Miguel Angel Mendieta said that before Holy Week, the market experienced a dollar surplus and a cordobas shortage. "We believe this is caused by the economic crisis. People who have dollars are selling them to survive, but only a few are buying to save them as they did before," Mendieta has said. Gomez said the surplus and shortage in demand will lead to a dollarization of the economy. "The balance has been broken; more people are selling dollars, and there are few cordobas to purchase them," he has said. In certain cases the profit margin of certain exchange houses was four cents, but that has dropped to one cent for the above mentioned reasons. Most of the exchange houses have cut back their levels of operations.

Alejandro Solorzano, Exchange Houses Association [Asociacion de Casas de Cambio, Asocambio] president, attributed the situation to the shortage of liquidity. "The trend is now toward more people with dollars and fewer with cordobas. We are almost working at the official price," he added. According to Solorzano, the chief problem is that the exchange houses lack the capacity to give incentives to buyers as they did before. "The slow circulation of dollars is hurting the market," he said.

Several Sectors Reject U.S. Drug Report

PA0604173094 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Apr 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Alfonso Malespin Jiron]

[Text] Although they were unfamiliar with the details, various official sectors of the country have rejected the U.S. State Department's international report on narcotrafficking control strategy, which states that in 1993, "Nicaragua showed little progress" in the antidrug-trafficking and money-laundering struggle in the country. Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais said the report "does not accurately reflect" the Nicaraguan situation, and "the U.S.

State Department told Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry officials that Nicaragua was not a country that caused concern" regarding drug trafficking. "Furthermore," it added that since the date of the report until today, "Nicaragua has shown important progress in cooperating to confront international narcotrafficking problems."

The U.S. document, to which BARRICADA gained access, states the National Police has delayed the antidrug-trafficking struggle and conducted its first operation "with the DEA" in early 1994. Deputy Government Minister Frank Cesar recalled that John Maisto, U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, sent a letter congratulating the police corps for its antidrug-trafficking struggle.

The annual report also states "the extension and importance of drug trafficking in Nicaragua is not fully known," but "there are hardly any doubts about Nicaragua's tremendous financial and political problems make the country an obvious target" of narco- afficking.

A ranking police source has agreed that undoubtedly a large amount of drugs passes through our country, air space, and across our sea. The source added: "Concerning Nicaragua, one cannot speak, however, of official authorization of narcotrafficking flights or official protection groups for cocaine-unloading operations."

The report criticized Violeta de Chamorro's government for not progressing as the United States wants "in fulfilling the UN Convention of 1988, not passing new counternarcotics laws, not adopting measures against government corruption, and not progressing in bilateral and regional agreements signed in previous years. It recognizes as facts, however, that Nicaragua is part of the executive secretariat of the Central American Antinarcotics Commission, that the Banco Central demands documents verifying transactions exceeding $10,000, and that a counternarcotics police unit has been created."

Deputy Government Minister Frank Cesar said "there is no evidence of money laundering in Nicaragua," as the U.S. State Department claims. A police source agreed with Cesar. "We cannot certify there is money laundering in Nicaragua." The source added the police cannot conduct an investigation "as long as there is no law authorizing us to do so."

Luis Humberto Guzman, National Assembly president, said that so far, the legislative branch has not conducted an investigation on money laundering due to a lack of economic means. He said: "If one examines the amount of financial activities in Nicaraguan banks, we cannot speak of money laundering."

The U.S. report adds that "although the Nicaraguan Government promised in 1992 to present a law, according to the UN Convention of 1988, it decided not to use any political capital for it." The report added Nicaraguan legislation on the topic is "obsolete" because it defines the problem as a "health" problem. The National Assembly has learned of a draft bill which, because of its complex nature, is taking awhile. It is hoped the law will be ready in eight weeks. Guzman said the U.S. State Department "has false information" on the narcotrafficking situation in Nicaragua, and the deputies are "doing what we must regarding this topic (of narcotrafficking)."

Panama

Candidate Carles Rejects U.S. State Report

PA0704012494 Panama City Circuito RPC Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "The RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Presidential candidate Ruben Dario Carles rejected accusations by some U.S. sectors linking Panama to international money laundering. According to Carles, Panamanians cannot accept everything that comes from the United States. A report issued by the U.S. assistant of state for inter-American affairs states that Panama is one of the countries that offers the least cooperation in controlling drug trafficking and money laundering. Panamanian authorities have staunchly rejected this position.

Presidential Candidate Ruben Dario Carles, who describes himself as a friend of the United States, also rejected the allegations.

[Begin Carles recording] I agree with the position taken by Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Raul Mulino. Panama is cooperating in the counternarcotics effort. The enormous quantities of drugs seized is one indication that things are like they used to be, when trafficking was openly protected by Panamanian authorities. [end recording]

According to Carles, there are some isolated cases, but they are not enough to warrant the accusations being made against Panama.

[Begin Carles recording] We can not accept everything the Americans ask or demand of us. There are interests here in Panama that must also be defended, like the banking center. Of course money laundering is a crime, but it originates in the United States, so let us both struggle against it. They signed the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which Panama has already ratified but the United States has not. [end recording]

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA0704121594

[Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the elections scheduled for 8 May 1994.

A Marketing Ideas poll taken in Panama City for EL SIGLO puts Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], in the lead with the support of 26.1 percent of respondents. Following closely is Change 94 Coalition candidate

Ruben Carles with 24 percent. Papa Egoro Movement candidate Ruben Blades has remained stable with 13.2 percent; the rating of Arnulfista Party candidate Mireya Moscoso de Gruber has increased to 11.2 percent, and Christian Democratic Party [PDC] candidate Eduardo Vallarino's rating increased to 9.2 percent. Candidates Samuel Lewis and Salvador Munoz' rates have not changed significantly. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish (supplement) 17 March 94 p 8)

Electoral Tribunal President Eduardo Valdes has confirmed candidacies contested at the tribunal over the next few days will not delay the elections. Valdes said the tribunal has already hired almost all of the 42,000 people who will work as voting officers, voting board members, supervisors, inspectors and coordinators during the 8 May elections. (Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 March 94)

Ruben Blades says his popularity is still increasing. Blades, who has campaigned in various sectors of Panama City, said his campaign is going well, and he refused to comment on the other candidates, saying it would be in poor taste to do so. Blades has said: "Now that the campaign is in full swing, the people are reacting positively. As I have said before, the other candidates began their campaigns much earlier, but I have taken to the streets now, and the people have greeted me warmly." (Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 March 94)

During a tour of Rio Abajo Corregimiento, Ruben Carles urged Panamanians to preserve democracy. He said the Torrijos-Carter Treaties legalize the presence of U.S. bases in Panama. Carles said: "I will make every effort to maintain certain U.S. Army bases, which have been legally authorized to remain in Panama by the neutrality treaty, particularly by the de Concini clause, which Omar Torrijos accepted, confirmed, and approved when he signed the treaty at a ceremony in Washington, saying he was placing Panama under the Pentagon's umbrella." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 March 94)

Ruben Carles has campaigned in the neighborhood of La Boca Town, Rio Abajo, Panama City, where he suffered a slight injury inside an old building that caved in under the weight of the crowd. Carles responded to the situation by saying: "The accident occurred due to the building's poor condition. The floor caved in, and approximately 12 people fell; fortunately, nothing happened." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 March 94)

Approximately 21,000 workers from the National Central Organization of Panamanian Workers, CNTP, have announced their decision to support the presidential candidacy of Ernesto Perez Balladares and oppose Carles, whom they characterize as a supporter of the U.S. December 1989 invasion of Panama. CNTP Secretary General Elberto Luis Cobos stated in a communique that the working classes identify with Perez' ideology and background, adding he represents hope and an opportunity for thousands of Panamanians who have been deceived by the current government. Cobos said "a Perez Balladares victory would mean a return to Torrijismo and a rejection of the neoliberal policies promoted by the international financial institutions that will foster great struggles." (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 March 94 p 13A)

The Justice and Peace Commission has released a communique regarding the political ads shown on television. The document says "political propaganda should not exploit fear, induce any form of violence, or contain general accusations." One of the ads, sponsored by an alleged "Never Again" committee, shows clips of military repression and suggests viewers should never forget the dark past. Meanwhile, Gilberto Pitti, media director at the Government and Justice Ministry, says anonymous propaganda is not illegal and that there is no law that demands these ads be signed. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 March 94 p 3A)

Perez Balladares says the latest polls show Change 94 candidate Ruben Carles has reached a plateau, the beginning of his decline. LA PRENSA's latest poll puts Perez Balladares in the lead with 39 percent of respondents' votes, followed by Carles with 20.5 percent. Aurelio Barria from Carles' camp reacted to Perez' remarks by saying the polls show a polarization and that Carles' popularity will increase in March. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 March 94 p 2A)

Yesterday, Legislative Assembly President Arturo Vallarino requested the government increase protection for presidential candidates. Vallarino's request was prompted by the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico. Vallarino said: "The electoral campaign has been peaceful thus far, but times have changed, and it would be good for the government and its security bodies to provide greater protection for the presidential candidates." In response, Carlos Bares, Institutional Protection Service [SPI] director, said increased protection for each candidate has not yet been considered and that President Guillermo Endara would have to make such a decision. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 March 94 p 1A)

President Endara has told LA PRENSA the SPI will provide greater security for the seven presidential candidates to guarantee their physical safety. Endara will discuss this decision, prompted by the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, with the Electoral Tribunal. President Endara said certain candidates have accepted the additional protection, but others have turned it down. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 March 94 p 3A)

Yesterday, Electoral Tribunal magistrates asked the political parties, candidates to public office, and news media to ensure political ads fill the requirements of the Santa Maria La Antigua electoral ethical pledge. In a "public exhortation," the magistrates said past events

are important, but they can be presented in a "positive and lofty" manner to avoid upsetting the parties participating in the race. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 March 94 p 37)

President Endara says as long as political campaign ads do not contain personal insults or incite people to violence there is no reason why they should not be shown. Endara said: "We must remember the things that happened during certain periods of our history, whether it was during my administration or previous administrations." In response to a question on the subject, Endara also denied having received calls from various ambassadors asking him to press for a decision in favor of former Mayor Mayin Correa, who stood trial on charges of misuse of government funds. He also said he has offered the presidential candidates greater protection by the police. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 March 94)

National Consensus Alliance candidate Samuel Lewis Galindo has campaigned in Anton, Cocle Province, with his running mate. Residents warmly greeted him. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 March 94)

Candidates Perez Balladares and Carles, both of who campaigned recently in Cocle Province on the same day, mutually accused each other of demagoguery. Perez suggested Carles remain in "his little rocking chair" until election day. "We have not forgotten your cruelty, arbitrariness, and prepotency, Chinchorro," Perez said. Meanwhile, Carles asked his supporters to compare his career as a public official to Perez', saying "no wealthy aristocrat is going to give me lessons in social sensibility." (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 March 94 p 1A)

Arnulfista candidate Mireya Gruber has told Kuna Indians in Kuna Yala: "At 2000 on 8 May, I will be elected president of Panama." Gruber invited the Indians to walk up the steps of the Palace of the Herons on 1 September. She spoke of the 1968 coup, which toppled her late husband, and promised to provide doctors and medicine for the Kunas, improve their education and farming systems, and provide scholarships for them. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 March 94 p 9A)

Papa Egoro candidate Ruben Blades has proposed the decentralization of power, which is centered in the province of Panama. He advocates giving the provinces the economic power and freedom to make their own decisions. Blades, who visited the Azuero region last week, reiterated he has no political debts and owes himself entirely to the Panamanian people. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 March 94 p 11A)

During a campaign stop in Cocle Province, Mireya Gruber has said the fall Carles suffered has affected him. Gruber answered Carles' assertions that she is tired and wants to give up and form an alliance with him, by saying, "I believe the fall he suffered from that balcony has hurt his head." She added: "If he needs my votes, he can join forces with me." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 March 94)

Perez Balladares has asked his supporters to remain calm as he predicted the campaign of insults will become increasingly intense during the remaining six weeks before the elections. During a tour of several areas in Panama City, Perez said: "During the remaining six weeks, we are going to be the targets of all types of provocations, starting with insults and anonymous television ads that we wish were signed by the candidate who is financing them." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 March 94)

Carlos Valle, assistant secretary general of the Papa Egoro Movement, says his party has nominated candidates to 77 percent of the public posts in contention nationwide. Valle, who is also one of Ruben Blades' campaign managers, has said his party is widely recognized in the provinces, even though "just a few months ago, Blades and the founders of the party were virtually unheard of in remote areas." His personal view is Blades appeals to the people because they want their questions answered in simple, not technical, terms. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 March 94 p 1A)

Argentina

Patents Law 'Credential' for Negotiating Tariffs With U.S.

PY0704022094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2237 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that the approval of the Patents Law is "a credential in the negotiations with the U.S. Government to get it to modify the extremely closed tariff stance it has with Argentina."

Cavallo complained that while Argentina is "extremely open to the United States, it is extremely closed to us in tariff and rates matters."

He stressed it is "fundamental" that the Patents Law be used as a lever in the negotiation of a bilateral trade relation with the United States, and "no ground must be given regarding future sanctions."

"It is very important for them that it can be considered as a credential in the negotiations," the minister reiterated during the luncheon he had with an organization of business people.

The economy minister warned that if negotiations with the U.S. Government are successful, the norm for acknowledging the intellectual rights of U.S. laboratories "will have to be made within the framework of GATT."

This is precisely the measure that is being demanded by the national enterprises grouped within the Industrial Center of Argentine Pharmaceutical Laboratories (CILFA), something the foreign companies, represented in this case by the U.S. Embassy with James Cheek at its head, wish to prevent.

The minister hopes that the approval of the Patents Law, which is sleeping in Congress, will be the "key" to unfreeze trade relations.

Cavallo then referred to Brazil and stated that trade relations with the neighboring country are "as important as those with as those with the United States."

Moreover, he confessed that the Argentine Government "slipped up when it negotiated a free trade" [zone], referring to the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] Treaty, and he said: "There was no need to achieve a customs union."

Notwithstanding, he expressed his happiness in that "the Brazilians are quite realistic and have come to the conclusion that free trade is not yet feasible."

As a detail to support his position, the minister maintained that many Europeans are "more skeptical about their monetary and economic union."

Argentine-U.S. Navies Begin Joint Exercises

PY0604140594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2317 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA)—The Argentine Navy reported today that it will participate in a joint exercise with the U.S. Navy off the Atlantic coast near the Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia, between 6 and 22 April.

The Navy said the invitation to participate in the exercise was made within the framework of existing professional relations between the two countries.

The Argentine task force will be commanded by Navy Captain Rafael Fuentes y Arballo and will include the destroyer ARA [Argentine Republic Navy] La Argentina. The United States task force will include the flagship USS Mount Wintney, the nuclear aircraft carrier George Washington, and nuclear cruisers and submarines.

The operation will consist of isolating an aircraft carrier battle group and an amphibious group. Activities will be headed by the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet.

The Argentine Navy units, some of the newest in the country, will have an opportunity to repeat the interaction experiences in face of foreign forces.

At the end of the operation, in answer to Canadian Navy offer, the Argentine destroyer will make an official visit to Halifax port to participate in a brief training exercise with Canadian Navy units.

Arrests, 'Chaotic Situation' Continue in Jujuy

PY0604193694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2347 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] San Salvador de Jujuy, 5 Apr (NA)—This provincial capital today again experienced a chaotic situation after new clashes between the police and public servants were reported. The clashes left a toll of at least a dozen injured people and about 20 detainees, including Carlos "Dog" Santillan, the Trade Union of Municipal Employees and Workers [Sindicato de Empleados y Obreros Municipales] (SEOM) leader.

Trade union leader Santillan, who is among those conducting the mobilizations being carried out by public servants to receive salary hikes, was arrested at noon today, and his whereabouts remained unknown for several hours. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Alfonsin Delivers Speech

PY0604211194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2243 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA)—Radical Civic Union [UCR] leader Raul Alfonsin this evening stated that, together with economic stability, "political stability is also of paramount importance." He asserted that he had never before acted "with such overt disinterestedness,"

as he was not aspiring to any office. He made it clear that he intends "consolidating in 1994 what we began back in 1983."

During a 15-minute speech broadcast by "Cronica TV," Alfonsin pointed out that "we want to ensure for the benefit of posterity a Constitution that will be a guarantee of justice, security, appropriate institutional order—a Constitution that will not only be in force during the life spans of all those of you who are now listening to me, but surely those of your children and your children's children as well."

Alfonsin, who is running as first UCR candidate for Buenos Aires in the Constituent Assembly elections, reiterated that he is not pursuing "any sort of personal interest." He put an end to any possible speculations by stating that he would in no case run for the presidency on the UCR ticket in 1995.

Underscoring the value of political stability, Alfonsin gave the example of "what is happening in other countries" that are torn by social upheavals "despite the fact that everything seemed to be going like clockwork," thus alluding to the situation in Mexico.

First, Alfonsin defended the idea of "pacts" in political life. He pointed out that this word derives from the word "peace," and stressed that some pacts "have been instrumental in solving many fundamental problems confronting countries from Latin American and other latitudes."

To that effect he recalled the Fixed Point [Punto Fijo] Pact in Venezuela following Perez Gimenez's dictatorship, the Pact of Bogota after the death of Gaitan, the Pacts of La Moncloa in Spain in the wake of Francisco Franco's death, and the pact made in El Salvador between guerrillas and the government, which led to the 3 April elections.

He also referred to Argentine history in recalling the "preexistent pacts" mentioned in the 1853 Constitution, which "were not made between people who voted for different parties at the polls, but rather between people who had charged one another with lances; between warlords commanding irregular armies of gauchos, who decided to organize our nation."

Alfonsin upheld the argument that our country had been in "great danger" some months ago, a danger which could have ended with the reinstatement of the "incompatible refusals and tremendous confrontations" that generated the "climate ripe for coups d'etat" that had disrupted the constitutional order.

Alfonsin asserted that the federal government "accepted the proposals" made by the UCR, which opened the door for the first constitutional amendment by consensus of the century.

Among the most significant achievements of the agreement reached through the Olivos Pact, he highlighted the attenuation of the presidentialist system "to preclude any hegemonic pretension, any authoritarian slant, any encroachment upon the judiciary or upon Congress."

Alfonsin emphasized the figure of cabinet chief, who "will be in charge of the administration, the implementation of the budget, the appointment of public servants, and the management of administrative resources, and will have to report—as in any parliamentary system—to Congress at least once a month."

Alfonsin added: "We have also limited the power of issuing urgent and necessary decrees and the possibility of issuing partial vetoes and carrying out an intervention in the provinces when Congress is in recess. We have also prevented the transfer of powers from the legislative to the executive branch that would have excessively overloaded our presidential system."

Alfonsin also emphasized the achievement of having changed the system to appoint judges through the formation of the Council of Magistrates and the mechanism for their removal through a judgment jury.

"There is nothing that bothers a nation more than corruption," Alfonsin indicated, approving a preventive role in this area. This will involve assigning a constitutional status to the Office of the Comptroller General, which will be headed by a man or a woman appointed by the main opposition party.

Alfonsin also explained the necessity of attempting to secure "a majority of UCR Constituent Assembly members" as "there are 15 approved points of paramount importance" on which there are disagreements with the proposals raised by the Justicialist Party.

Among these disagreements, Alfonsin emphasized the federal system, municipal autonomy, environmental protection, defense of users and consumers, and the forms of semidirect democracy such as, for example, the referendum.

Post-Election Strategies of UCR Factions Discussed

94SM0316A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Mar 94 pp 8-9

[Article by Marcelo Helfgot: "UCR Plans for 'The Day After'"]

[Text] Half of the Radicals have begun to rehearse the role they will play following the 10 April elections. They see themselves as survivors of "The Day After," title of a film showing what the Earth would look like after a nuclear war.

Albeit less dramatically, the other half admit that the party centennial will not be able to avoid a "big bang," exploding into a myriad of group and personal agendas revolving in different orbits.

They must all go through a narrow pass that seems to be leading the UCR [Radical Civic Union] to the most serious crisis in its history. Raul Alfonsin and his loyal

supporters are clinging as if to a life raft to the remote possibility of winning 30 percent of the Constituent Convention votes. Those rejecting the Olives Pact are betting on a major blunder by the former president so as to be able to pass the bill on to him and steer the party in a different direction.

A handful of figures hopes not to get caught in the crossfire. The governors of Cordoba and Rio Negro, Eduardo Angeloz and Horacio Massaccesi, are confident they will emerge from the election challenge even stronger and that their presence will be essential in putting the UCR back together. Deputy Rodolfo Terragno, who runs no risk in this confrontation, will come out seeking to spread his image throughout the country via the Future line, which he will launch in Rosario on 14 April.

The Radicals' election campaign navigates on troubled waters with Alfonsin at the helm, having endured the revolts instigated by Fernando de la Rua in the capital and Sergio Montiel in Entre Rios. Before coming into port, it ran up against the challenge posed by the Convergence, headed by Federico Storrani and Juan Manuel Casella, who announced plans for an offensive on the party leadership beginning the next day.

Underground movements led by former Alfonsinist successors and joined by allies from other districts (such as Victor Fayad) surfaced in the midst of rumors attributing a divisionist attitude to them. All fingers pointed to another subscriber to the plan, Osvaldo Alvarez Guerrero, who hastened to say he was not betting on any breakup of the UCR, although he did not rule out any such outcome as the result of the wrangling.

"Historic splits have been the result of pacts," the president of the Radical convention said, pointing to the Roca-Mitre accord in 1890 that split the Civic Union and gave birth to radicalism, and the Frondizi-Peron agreement of 1957 from which the UCRI [Intransigent Radical Civic Union] emerged.

The protagonists in the Radical tragicomedy realize that a very complicated libretto awaits them in the months ahead.

They will be engulfed in internal turmoil aimed at carving out spheres of partisan power, while society has its sights set elsewhere: on changes in the constitution and how to prolong stability.

They will have to employ their best strategy in order to define the environmental relationship with the government and the much delayed formulation of an alternative proposal for the test of fire awaiting them in '95.

If they breeze through these phases, the most complex part of all lies ahead: regaining their "confidence factor," which seemed to be the heritage of the UCR and which was gradually diluted by successive failures in power and the opposition.

What weapons are the various groups readying to meet these challenges?

The former president plans to leap over any election contingency and intends to become the rallying point for a front of opposition to the Menemist model, although he will simultaneously defend the pact with the PJ as the leader of the bloc of Radical convention delegates.

Storani et al hope to create a generational bloc, viewing themselves as the heirs of a bankrupt Alfonsinism.

De la Rua has opted to lower his profile, but those closest to him have already begun to pave the way for an all-out return and want to revive the antipact alliance, combining Montiel's thinkers, Luis Leon, Horacio Usandizaga, and Mario Losada. Ever since his return from Washington, Storani has tried to free himself from this cast, but Casella's supporters and other allies refuse to let go.

Massaccesi will try to cement his identity by virtue of special effects. By combining phrases from Yrigoyen with frivolous touches and offbeat alliances—no matter that General Roberto Requeijo's candidacy collapsed—he dreams of giving a Copernican twist to the starchy style of the UCR.

If the police incidents connected with his administration and Ramon Mestre's candidacy give him the anticipated victory, Angeloz can become the arbiter of Radicalism. Few would dispute his presidential candidacy if the governor of Cordoba were to decide once again to challenge Menem.

The Alfonsists continue to whisper into his ear that this time he can beat Menem through the "balloting" and that it is his historic mission to unify the party. Angeloz is not convinced, however. "I am not ready to announce," is his continuing refrain.

[Box, p 8]

Front Opposing the "Judicialist Pact"

Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez and Raul Zaffaroni, Constituent Convention candidates for the Grand Front and the Federal Capital, have criticized the legal reform proposed by the Radicals, maintaining that it contains "no obstacle preventing partisanship in justice."

The Grand Front candidates have maintained that as a result of Radical Deputy Leopoldo Moreau's proposal that the Constituent Assembly declare all the judges commissioned, "the party supporting reelection would end up destroying any possibility of ensuring independent justice."

"It was no accident that (the Radical proposal) was enthusiastically accepted by (Buenos Aires) Governor Eduardo Duhalde, who added the idea that the Supreme Court should be responsible for reorganizing the Judicial Branch," Alvarez and Zaffaroni said.

The stakes for each after 10 April:

- 1. Raul Alfonsin: Continuing to lead the party, implementing the Olives Pact, and calling for a social front to oppose the Menemist model.
- 2. Fernando de la Rua and Sergio Montiel: Requiring that Alfonsin be accountable and rebuilding the anti-Pact alliance in order to displace it. De la Rua would get back in the presidential race.
- 3. Eduardo Angeloz: He will go through the "he-loves-me-he-loves-me-not" routine in order to decide whether to accept the candidacy for '95 that will be offered to him by the Alfonsinists and other groups.
- 4. Federico Storani and Juan Manuel Casella: They will ask to move up the internal elections and will launch the Convergence as a national line in order to form a progressive, post-Alfonsinist line.
- 5. Horacio Massaccesi and Rodolfo Terragno: They plan to go it alone and project their respective images nationally, without help from other quarters.

Bolivia

Paz's Secretary Claims U.S. Plotting Against MIR

PY0604220294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0245 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] La Paz, 5 Apr (EFE)—Susana Seleme, who was the private secretary of former President Jaime Paz Zamora, today said she was a "victim of the good faith errors" by the former president. Seleme said this while being questioned by a congressional commission investigating the former government's alleged links with drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

Seleme is among the group of militants of Paz Zamora's party, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), charged with being involved with traffickers following a police investigation prompted by statements by trafficker Carmelo Dominguez, aka Meco.

The Bolivian Police investigation is centered on Paz Zamora's friendship with alleged drug trafficker Isaac Chavarria, aka Oso.

Seleme is charged with having protected alleged trafficker Edgar Fernandez Lezcano—who regarded as Chavarrias' aide—and of having accepted money from Chavarrias to finance the MIR.

Paz Zamora's former secretary today denied having had a personal relationship with any of these individuals.

She admitted, however, having spoken over the phone to Meco Dominguez once and with Chavarrias on several occasions when they unsuccessfully tried to contact, through her, Paz Zamora when he was president.

Seleme admitted that Paz Zamora and his family had a long-standing friendship with Chavarrias. She added that she thought Paz Zamora believed that the person who is now regarded as a trafficker was involved in strictly legal deals.

Seleme took advantage of the occasion to say that she believes the struggle against trafficking in Bolivia is a violation of human rights.

She recalled an attempt to abduct her a few weeks ago, apparently by police who mistakenly abducted her niece whom they interrogated for several hours.

She spoke of the charges, also being investigated by Congress, by several inmates charged with trafficking who said they had been brutally tortured in "clandestine strongholds" by alleged Bolivian and foreign police agents.

Seleme said the charges linking the MIR with trafficking are part of a "sinister plan" organized by "the first world power and its representation in Bolivia," referring to the United States and its embassy in La Paz.

"I deeply admire Bill Clinton (U.S. President) and (his wife) Hilary Clinton, but I do not think human rights should be violated to fight trafficking," said Seleme.

She added: "I am not a delinquent. I am willing to shoot myself to prove I am innocent." She also voiced her conviction that her party colleagues are also innocent.

Editorial Backs President, Decries U.S. Envoy

PY0604222294 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p A4

[Editorial: "'Starting from Scratch' in the Eradication of Coca Farms"]

[Text] The president's initiative to negotiate an extension of the so-far strict and rigid deadlines the U.S. Embassy has imposed on the elimination of excess coca farms deserves full support from the entire country.

In Chapare, thousands of peasant families cultivate coca leaves for meager earnings because the price paid for their product cannot make them rich. The attractive profits remain in the hands of Bolivian, Colombian, and U.S. drug traffickers, especially U.S. traffickers, who distribute the product among consumers.

According to official announcements, there are still 1,900 hectares of coca farms to be eradicated—of the 4,500 the previous government had promised to eradicate by 31 March—and it is obvious that in the week before the deadline's expiration it will be impossible to fulfill the promise. Unless there is an intention to provoke a serious confrontation much stronger and more tragic than the ones that already have occurred in the region.

This is the most serious and sensitive problem the nation is now confronting. If the Chapare boiler goes off now, the other conflicts underlying Bolivian society will immediately worsen, provoking violence and instability. To avoid this, it is necessary to make all efforts and to be extremely prudent and patriotic.

If violence prevails in Chapare, there will be no capitalization, participation, educational reform, or the other proposals. There will be no more democracy, economic growth, and inflation control. The country and all its social sectors would lose their course, and our homeland would become the appropriate stage for the situation that is desired by imperialists and by those who advocate military action: a low-intensity war, rapid deployment tactics, the use of new conventional weapons, and clean, smart bombs.

Whoever thinks we are exaggerating should review the course of world events to convince himself. Peaceful and prosperous societies have suddenly been taken over by violence and, obviously, by foreign troops. Peace is for society what freedom is for men: It is not appreciated until it is lost, but while we enjoy it, we do not realize that we are making use of an essential value.

President Sanchez de Lozada's timely appeal to the U.S. Government, before Vice President Gore, awakened a clumsy reaction by Mr. Richard Bowers, which Bolivians have unanimously repudiated. He did not use the language of an ambassador, or even of a junior diplomat. It is hoped that his superiors in the State Department will reprimand him, because our Foreign Ministry has never dared do it, because of our longstanding weakness.

The appropriate thing to do is to outline our position directly to Washington, where Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas might go in search of justice. This is what Chayanta chief Tomas Catari did 200 years ago when he made a long pilgrimage on foot to Buenos Aires to complain to the viceroy about the abuses of Governor Joaquin Alos.

Government, Coca Growers Sign 5-Point Accord

PY0604130194 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 6

[Text] After lengthy talks, government officials and coca growers leaders at 2230 last night signed a five-point agreement to end the wave of violence that affected the Cochabamba tropical region as a result of the forceful eradication of coca plantations.

Signing the agreement for the government were Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar, Government Minister German Quiroga, Labor Minister Reynaldo Peters, and Sustainable Development Minister Jose Guillermo Justiniano. The other side was represented by leaders of peasant organizations and coca growers led by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB). The agreement was signed after lengthy talks that were at one time almost broken due to the intransigence of both sides.

The agreement, which was described as successful by the peasant leaders, begins by stating that government and labor leaders are committed to jointly fighting the drug trade.

The second point focuses on the government's commitment to refrain from further forced eradication of coca plantations and, to this effect, agrees to issue within 15 days a ministerial resolution containing pertinent instructions to the appropriate organizations.

The next point recognizes the government's commitment to continue "to search for and to destroy maceration pits and/or laboratories, without destroying adjacent coca plantations."

The fourth point caused the most conflict, to the point of having threatened to cause an impasse in the talks. It states: "The government and coca grower leaders will participate in the implementation of the provisions of Articles 10, 14, and 24 of Law 1008. The government vows to implement the Alternative Development Program jointly with coca growers leaders."

The fifth and final point provides for the creation of joint commissions to address all problems concerning production, marketing, processing, alternative development, and the legal and institutional aspects concerning coca production.

Following the signing of the agreement, government officials and leaders of peasant organizations expressed their satisfaction over the outcome of their talks. Foreign Minister Aranibar announced that the government yielded on the controversial fourth point "to safeguard social peace and because the fight against the drug trade must be waged within a framework of respect for the people and for the country."

Evo Morales, leader of the coca growers, described the agreement as "a major step forward" in the defense of coca, which is the only source of income for the peasants of Cochabamba and said that the task remaining now is to implement alternative development as a condition for replacing the surplus coca production.

Ω Media Warns of Repeat of Chiapas Rebellion

94P20621

[Editorial Report] The Bolivian press has been warning that a Chiapas-style rebellion could erupt in the country because of similar socioeconomic conditons affecting a large portion of the population. On 20 February, La Paz PRESENCIA, a Catholic Church-owned center-left daily, published a special report entitled "The Chiapas Syndrome, Vaccine Sought Urgently," which reviewed the Indian uprising in Mexico and commented on the possibility of it occurring in Bolivia. The report included interviews with Bolivian Vice President Hugo Cardenas, sociologist Javier Hurtado, and Free Bolivia Movement (MBL) deputy Miguel Urioste. All three expressed sympathy for Indian and peasant demands and urged that they be addressed through democratic processes, not armed struggle. To this end they are promoting the government's current reform programs.

In the PRESENCIA interview Vice President Hugo Cardenas, Bolivia's first Indian official at that level, described the recent events in Mexico as "worrisome" for Bolivia the "lack of solidarity with the poor could pave the way for a Chiapas-style guerrilla uprising." "We Indians have shed the most blood in the struggle against injustice," he explained, "and we are fed up." He also pointed out that "the arrival of an Indian to the vice presidency doesn't mean that prejudice and injustice have ceased to exist." Cardenas argued that the problems resulting from "political and social exclusion"—lack of education and health services, low salaries, unequal land distribution, migration to the cities, and poverty in general—"should have been solved by now" and that these topics "should be the most important issues on the continent's political agenda." Instead, he noted, the first steps are just being taken, after 169 years, to incorporate the "approximately 42 percent of Bolivian society," previously excluded from the decisionmaking processes of the state, into the political system. Cardenas expressed confidence that the "mentality of commitment" now prevailing among the power elites in Bolivia would lead the way for the transformation of Bolivia from a "democracy of minorities" into a "multiethnic and pluricultural democracy." These steps must be taken, he insisted, "so that a Chiapas does not occur here."

Miguel Urioste, leader of Free Bolivia Movement (MBL) that is part of the government coalition, and director of TIERRA (Workshop for Initiatives in Rural Research and Agrarian Reform), agreed with Vice President Cardenas that Indians and peasants in Chiapas and Bolivia experienced similar conditions. However, Urioste told PRESENCIA that, although Bolivian Indian and peasant groups are now "awakening," they are not opting for radical or destructive measures but are increasingly proposing "constructive solutions" to their problems. Urioste mentioned that among the solutions sought by the government, the most essential are a redistribution of public investment and a more equitable reallocation of resources toward rural areas to give the people more say in political and administrative decison making. In addition, with the goal of eliminating unproductive large estates (latifundios), his party has also been promoting a second agrarian reform, more aggressive than that which was carried out under the first Agrarian Reform Act of 1953. These solutions are embodied in the draft Popular Participation Law, a complex and controversial law which is part of President Sanchez de Lozada's reform package. Urioste felt optimistic that the law would "substantially modify society's representational structures." For example, he explained, 300 rural municipalities would be created, comprising 12,145 peasant and Indian communities. "For the first time in Bolivia's history," these communities would have legal jurisdiction and their elected traditional authorities would also be legally recognized. The newly created municipalities "would receive 19 percent of Treasury tax revenues" to directly administer and manage the communities' education and health centers, as well as the irrigation systems, construction projects, and road networks. He stressed that an important provision of the law would require that resources be allocated to regions according to number of inhabitants, thereby eliminating previous "imbalances." Urioste said that "although centuries of poverty could not be eliminated in one or four years," he was confident that "we are still in time to correct the mistakes and prevent a rude awakening of Bolivia's Indian people."

Bolivian sociologist Javier Hurtado, in his comments to PRESENCIA, observed that in Bolivia despite the reforms brought about by the 1952 Revolution, things have changed little for the peasants. "The struggle for land remains a central theme," he explained, and "racial discrimination is still strongly rooted." He also believes that the present economic system has only served to "accentuate the polarization of poverty versus opulence" in the country, and that this could lead to a Chiapas-like situation. "To alleviate this tension," he said, Bolivians should "start thinking about repeating an April 1952 Revolution with significant reforms," as well as "correcting the technical errors of the first Agrarian Reform of 1953."

Concern that the Chiapas uprising could be repeated in Bolivia, especially in the Chapare region of Cochabamba Department, was expressed in various issues of the Cochabamba daily LOS TIEMPOS. The government there had been carrying out a program of limited forced coca eradication in compliance with "Law 1008," which requires the eradication of one hectare of coca for every cocaine maceration pit found in the area. These actions, opposed by coca growers, led to violence in early March between the growers and special eradication forces. According to the 3 March issue of LOS TIEMPOS, Evo Morales, leader of the coca growers' confederation, issued an "official" statement on 2 March threatening violent resistance similar to the Chiapas uprising if "the government does not cease its forced eradication of these crops." The 9 March LOS TIEMPOS reported that President Sanchez de Lozada admitted that the country was a "time bomb," and, according to the same daily, the Bishop of La Paz, Monsignor Luis Sainz, said that the Church sided with the peasants in opposing the forced destruction of coca crops, and that "before eradicating coca, the government should eradicate poverty."

A 20 February commentary in LOS TIEMPOS by Jose Luis Roca, entitled "Symptoms of Social Instability in the Chapare," observed that "in Bolivia, the Chapare area could become the epicenter of serious social conflict." The Chapare, he continued, "is like a boiling cauldron that hasn't yet exploded only because of its pressure valves, which are the relative freedom to grow and market coca leaf." The commentator noted that the situation in the Chapare is potentially more volatile than that in Mexico because in Chiapas, at least, "a trained people's army conducts negotiations on an equal basis with its government (which raises hope for a negotiated solution)." In the Chapare, he continued, "there is the risk of collective suicide because the peasants' reactions are totally irrational, motivated only by desperation and hunger." The author feared that drug traffickers could

exploit any unrest to perpetrate "horrible actions in our country," like the ones which "have plunged Peru and Colombia into a bloodbath."

A 1 March editorial entitled "Violence in the Chapare" echoes previously expressed concerns and asserts that "eradication of coca bushes is only carried out when it is necessary to make a gesture to obtain economic aid from foreign governments." The Chapare, noted the editorial, could become a chronic area of conflict," as long as the government is incapable of formulating a "general policy on coca and drug trafficking that truly meets long-term national interests rather than short-term party interests."

According to La Paz Television Nacional Network on 26 March, an agreement was finally reached in which the government promised to desist from any forced eradication. The coca growers believe this agreement represents a victory for them, and the government believes the agreement "will ensure peace and the implementation of alternative development in the coca-producing regions."

Brazil

U.S. Backing Sought for Pacification of Angola

PY0604221294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0003 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Brasilia, 4 Apr (EFE)—Official sources told EFE here that acting Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Abdenur today asked the United States to increase its contribution so as to achieve the pacification of Angola.

The request was made by Abdenur during a meeting with Madeleine Albright, the U.S. permanent representative before the United Nations, in Brasilia. Albright exhorted Brazilian President Itamar Franco to support the U.S. position to exert pressure on the DPRK.

The United States is seeking diplomatic support to intensify its pressure on the DPRK in order to oblige the latter to abide by a recent UN Security Council resolution and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities.

Abdenur took advantage of the U.S. diplomat's visit to Brazil to ask the United States for greater involvement in the United Nations so as to establish peace in Angola. There are strong cultural, economic, and historical bonds between Brazil and the African nation.

Abdenur and Albright decided that they will keep consulting with each other to continue assessing the tense situation confronting the Korean peninsula due to the DPRK's refusal to agree to the inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Albright today met President Franco, with Abdenur, and Army Minister General Zenildo de Lucena. She is to leave Brasilia tomorrow to travel to Argentina.

Abdenur and Albright expressed optimism about the electoral process in Mozambique, which will culminate with next September's elections.

Nevertheless, the acting foreign minister voiced concern about the hasty reduction of UN peacekeeping forces stationed in Mozambique.

Both diplomats also discussed future regulations to enhance the effectiveness of the economic sanctions the United Nations imposes on some countries and to alleviate the harm caused to innocent nations or people.

Discussion of Labor Issues at GATT Opposed

PY0604235294 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Apr 94 p 24

[Text] Geneva—Everything is ready for a big party. But now, after six years of negotiations, a black cloud is hanging over the closure ceremony that will be held in Marrakech on 12 April for the most ambitious round of negotiations for the deregulation of world trade: the Uruguay Round of GATT talks. The United States does not want countries where workers are exploited to obtain easy access and trade advantages for their products in international trade. The United States demands that the World Trade Organization that will be officially created during the Marrakech meeting study the subject.

But Brazil and all the poor countries that already are feeling like possible victims of trade retaliations refuse to discuss the problem. Brazilian Ambassador to GATT Felipe Lampreia protested the idea at the Uruguay Round Negotiating Committee.

"Labor issues must not be discussed by a trade organization but by the International Labor Organization," said Graca Lima, one of the Brazilian negotiators.

According to Lima, the U.S. proposal is premature and may open the door to a new form of trade barrier against products from developing countries.

British Foreign Secretary Views Privatization

PY0704154494 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 94 Section 1 p 4

[Article by Antonio Carlos Seidl]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, 64, has said in Sao Paulo that British consulting firms and investment banks have "specific" and "practical" interest in "actively" engaging in the privatization of the Brazilian electricity sector.

Hurd yesterday began a four-day visit to Brazil to promote relations between the two countries. In Brasilia tomorrow, he will meet with President Itamar Franco, with Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero, and with Foreign Minister Celso Amorim.

At Bandeirantes Palace, in southern Sao Paulo, Hurd met with Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, with

whom he addressed the plan for privatization the Sao Paulo potable water service.

Hurd added that Great Britain has successfully privatized the electric power and potable water sectors.

"As a result of this," he went on, "British enterprises have direct experience in privatization management, and a new class of entrepreneurs who specialize in denationalization."

Hurd said the British Government will consider reopening official export credits for Brazil, which were suspended four years ago when Brazil stopped amortizing its debt to the Paris Club.

Numbers Game Links With Drug Trafficking Proven

PY0704125594 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 94 p C1

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—A person very close to numbers game kingpin Castor de Andrade has sent a lot of money to Cali, Colombia—the seat of one of the largest cocaine trafficking cartels. Documents proving this remittance were seized at Casto de Andrade's fortress. Rio de Janeiro Attorney Antonio Carlos Biscaia said: "The numbers game is no longer just the game that so many people enjoy; it is a mask behind which several forms of organized crime hide."

Attorneys examining the numbers game kingpins' accounts have also found that in January 1993, Castor de Andrade deposited $500,000 in the Swiss Banks Association. Biscaia said: "The numbers game has been used to permeate crime throughout society, by bribing policemen and judges, by supporting samba groups and soccer teams, and even by financing politicians' electoral campaigns." These accounting books list sums paid to several candidates and contributions to political campaigns. Biscaia said: "It is all written down in the books, even the $100,000 given to a major candidate."

Chile

Foreign Minister Sets 'Course' on Bolivia Ties

PY0704023994 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 6

[Excerpt] Outlining the course he will set for Chilean-Bolivian relations, Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said: "We must explore a whole world of possibilities in our relations with Bolivia." Our relations with Bolivia have time and again been marred by sporadic reactions by Bolivian military officials, who have demanded, through unusual appeals, an outlet to the sea for their country.

This is what happened on 22 March when the Bolivian Army commander, General Reynaldo Caceres, called for a change in the "thoughtless, obstinate attitude of the Chilean ruling class" regarding the Bolivian landlocked situation, a position out of keeping with history."

Figueroa was asked on 23 March about the approach he will take regarding relations with Bolivia in light of the various aspects posed by this issue. On the one hand, there have been friendly gestures such as the cordial talks held by Figueroa with Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar, as well as the visit paid to Chile to attend the presidential inauguration by Mrs. Ximena Iturralde de Sanchez de Lozada, the wife of the Bolivian president, who conveyed a message to the Chilean people. On the other hand, these gestures have been overshadowed by remarks such as that by Gen. Caceres.

First, Figueroa said he will not comment on "remarks by third parties," alluding to Caceres. Second, he outlined his position regarding "the course" he will take in our relations with Bolivia.

Figueroa said: "It is Chile's desire to have the best possible relations with Bolivia, in order to seek ways for understanding in the areas of politics, economics, culture, and tourism and for investment and infrastructure development in border areas. There is a whole world of possibilities that must be explored to develop these relations."

Figueroa outlined his position in a meeting he held with Aranibar in Brasilia on 22 March. The two foreign ministers took advantage of a meeting of Rio Group foreign ministers to hold bilateral talks in Brasilia. At the end of the meeting, Figueroa talked about searching for "creative formulas" to develop Chilean-Bolivian ties. On 23 March he emphasized the need for these formulas.

"These formulas could be applied within the whole spectrum of cooperation and to the work that two countries like Chile and Bolivia—which truly seek to maintain good relations—could undertake." [passage omitted]

President Establishes Anticorruption Commission

PY0704141494 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The National Commission on Public Morals was established at La Moneda Palace today. President Eduardo Frei decided to set up this commission to combat signs of corruption in the country.

The issue of honesty in public office has been uppermost in the head of state's mind since he came to power. The idea of establishing the National Commission on Public Morals answers this concern. This commission, which is to be made up of leading figures from all political sectors, will have a 100-day deadline for submitting its proposals.

[Begin Frei recording] We establish this national commission today in order to streamline the legal mechanisms established to ward off and suppress occurrences such as corruption and trafficking of influence. The reason that prompted me to establish this national commission was to underscore that corruption and its

attendant problems are things that concern the whole country, as the efforts of a particular government are not enough to prevent and overcome it. All the democratic forces of our country should be united in this endeavor. Every upright and efficient government official ought not to be worried. Our final goal is to turn public service into a dignified work environment where initiative, the spirit of work, and the disinterested effort to achieve the common good are rewarded. We are not seeking to create a paralyzing and stifling control system. We are interested, rather, in clearly distinguish illegitimate intentions from mere mistakes. We are pursuing the betterment of the state so as to be able to give citizens aboveboard and competent service rather than the construction of an efficient and bureaucratic state. [end recording]

Frei Warns Public Employees

PY0704151494 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] The president of the Republic demands that all Chilean public employees respect the people and exhibit flawless professional behavior.

In a note distributed to mayors and governors, President Frei warns that "administrative integrity implies putting public interests above personal ones." It adds: "Corruption implies taking advantage of a situation for personal benefit."

The note exhorts officials to look after public property and resources by making good use of them, to have a social life in accordance with the dignity of their positions, to avoid intervening in a situation in which personal interests are involved, and not to engage in influence peddling or handle privileged information and to prevent others from doing it. Tax collectors are warned that they should not solicit, commit others to grant them, or accept donations, advantages, or any other sort of privilege. They must promptly report to the courts crimes they are aware of, as well as report all irregularities to the appropriate authorities. They are also requested to strictly control the use of fiscal revenues. The note also reminds public employees that the administration is subjected to multiple controls, therefore they should not hinder or delay this control. Another part of the note adds that no fees should be charged for tasks performed by government members unless legal provisions establish otherwise.

The president of the Republic also requests that public administration employees comply with the objectives of each government institution and that, on their own initiative, employees seek to better fulfill their obligations and place the public administration at the service of citizens.

Another provision is that civil servants meet community requests, charges, or complaints that are respectfully and appropriately presented. The public tasks must be fulfilled in thorough compliance with the terms of the Constitution, the laws, and established norms. They also are required to be diligent, not to create false expectations about the extent of government actions, to be efficient, to simplify red tape, to make use of the available means, and not to overwhelm society with excessive rules. Obsolete or useless norms must be expressly eliminated, and the language used in guidelines and norms must be simple and understandable to all.

They are told to exercise authority in a reasonable and not arbitrary manner, to do it in a respectful and diligent way, and to ensure that their action goes beyond the interests of individuals or groups.

The president of the Republic points out in the note: "Our rule of law guarantees absolute equality before the law. Therefore, I will not allow people, groups, interests, or authorities to be favored.

"I demand that you appoint people who have full knowledge of matters in his area in positions of direct service to the population. I want them to carry out their duties with dedication and courtesy. Everyone has the right to be treated well. I want special respect for the poor, the handicapped, and elderly people. I want clarity. I want the people to see what you are doing. Do not deny access to the information or reviews of administrative documents. I want people who respect our population's different cultures, who can make sound decisions, who can resolve problems by listening to those affected. I want people who will adopt all necessary measures to guarantee security, good service, and the protection of users' rights. I want the areas where people wait or where they are heard to be accessible and dignified. Users should receive all the information necessary concerning administrative proceedings so they clearly know where to go, which documents to take with them, and when they will be served.

Official Outlines Measures

PY0604192494 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p 7

[Article by Raul Rojas]

[Text] Following a long meeting of the Political Interministerial Committee, which is presided over by the president of the Republic, Victor Manuel Rebolledo, minister secretary general of the Presidency, reported that the government will promote concrete measures against corruption in the next few days.

Rebolledo said: "Ethics, transparency, and integrity constitute a very high priority for the government as a guideline for its public activities. The government acknowledges the concern expressed by politicians and congressmen over corruption. The government believes the Chilean political system is not suffering generalized corruption. It is very important to point this out. Our concern follows some signs that have turned up. It is yet not a generalized problem, but it is necessary to confront

corruption promptly, to prevent this evil from installing itself in our political system."

Rebolledo said that in the next few days measures will be adopted to combat corruption. The government will establish regulations to prevent corruption from installing itself in Chilean public life.

The Political Interministerial Committee studied the priorities of the government's legislative agenda and concluded that tension over the prioritization of social and political-institutional subjects do not exist.

The meeting confirmed that social aspects will be stressed, without overlooking other political reforms. There has been a total consensus regarding some reforms, like procedures to be adopted by joint committees in case of disagreement on a constitutional amendment between the two houses of Congress. There was consensus on subjects linked to citizenry, nationality, and other issues, like the case of direct elections for mayor.

The committee also ratified other wide-reaching reforms that require open dialogue with the opposition: "We want to explore possibilities for consensus. We believe there is a spirit of dialogue, and it is understood that our institutional system can be modernized and improved."

Legislators Comment on Commission

PY0604195194 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 29 Mar 94 p 7

[Excerpt] The need to establish a commission to fight corruption was one of the key issues discussed during the meeting of the Interministerial Political Committee presided over by Interior Minister German Correa [as published].

Senator Anselmo Sule, the Radical Party president, stated that the heads of political parties and government authorities discussed the situation in Congress. They also discussed other issues that will become draft bills.

When asked about the commission to fight corruption, Sule said: "It has been proposed; there is a preliminary agreement and I believe it will materialize in the next few days. There has been agreement on the need for this for some time now. The commission will be established by decree and will include representatives of all political sectors because it is a nationwide problem that must be tackled by all Chileans. It has yet to be decided what it will do specifically. What it must obviously do is to assess the concrete measures, the procedures, alternatives, methods, and attitudes to be taken to eliminate the possibility of this problem surfacing or worsening."

As for the government's draft bills, their precedence will be determined next week.

Deputy Gutenberg Martinez, president of the Christian Democratic Party, admitted that disagreements with the opposition in the lower house were also discussed. He commented: "We were all surprised by what happened in the Senate, by the attempt to form an opposition bloc, and by the comments made by senators like Hernan Larrain, in the sense that the Senate will become a sort of opposition trench. We regard the comments by Andres Allamand positive, because they at least suggest that not event the rightist sector is quite certain about the matter. We believe their decisions on constitutional issues and the government's social priorities will allow us to determine the possibilities of a relationship with the rightist sector."

Martinez added: "Our sector believes the policy of agreements and consensus regarding important national issues is the policy the Coalition of Parties for Democracy must uphold, but this does not mean we will not detect or reject any maneuver to turn the Senate into an opposition trench." [passage omitted]

Daily Supports Commission

PY0604200794 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 28 Mar 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Measures Against Corruption"]

[Text] It is undeniable that all sectors agree it is necessary to fight corruption. Yet, when it comes to making a decision on concrete measures, there is no more unanimity. While some people emphasize the legal side of the matter, advocating the use of laws to fight this scourge, others emphasize the ethical side, advocating the teaching of principles to people.

The truth is that both are right. A society without sufficient legal instruments, both for preventing and for sanctioning corruption, will have little success in the fight against it. Yet it is also true that people without principles are more likely to engage in practices leading to the unethical and illegal obtaining of wealth.

Within this context, it is highly positive that the first "heated debate" at the Chamber of Deputies focused on the search for feasible mechanisms for controlling this scourge. Because even though Chile has traditionally observed the law and the standards of morality, there are indications that the corruption wave affecting other countries might also spread to Chile.

An outstanding point in the broad debate on the subject was the need to strengthen the structure and functions of control organs. Proposals were made to expedite and modernize the procedures of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic and to expand the supervisory duties of the Council for the Defense of the State and of the Chamber of Deputies.

A proposal was also made to install an Ombudsman [preceding word in English], or people's defender, and a Superintendency of State-Run Companies. Within the private sector it was proposed to impose sanctions against the illegal obtaining of wealth and the engagement of employees in crimes against the state [delitos

funcionarios]. It was also proposed to reestablish the power that professional associations had for sanctioning ethical violations.

The government is sponsoring an interesting initiative, which considers the possibility of creating a top-level commission for proposing the necessary legal amendments to prevent fraud in all public sector organs.

This initiative, which would in practice call for creation of a National Commission Against Corruption similar to the commission that will be created for fighting poverty, has the advantage that all sectors of the country will be represented in it. In fact, all Chileans should obviously engage in the fight against this scourge, which is the main threat that jeopardizes a democracy.

In sum, there is pressing need for promptly designing an appropriate strategy for fighting this fearful phenomenon. Only in this way will our action reflect our words.

Pinochet Appoints Officers to Army High Command

PY0704141994 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 7

[Excerpts] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet yesterday completed the Army high command with the appointment of General Jaime Concha, current Advisory Committee chief, as Army inspector general. Gen. Concha replaces General Jorge Ballerino, who resigned on 31 January. [passage omitted]

Thus, the Army command reads:

Army Commander in Chief: General Augusto Pinochet. Deputy Commander in Chief: Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Lucar. Major General Guillermo Garin remains in his position as commander of the 1st Army Corps; Major General Richard Quass is the Army chief of staff; Major General Ramon Castro Ivanovic is the personnel director; Major General Eterio Pavez is the commander of the Southern Military Region; Major General Jaime Concha is the Army inspector general; Major General Guido Riquelme is the commander general of the Metropolitan Region Army Garrison; Major General Ricardo Gaete Villasenor is the deputy Army chief of staff; Major General Hernan Abad Cid is the commander of the Engineers Command; Brigadier General Hernan Ramirez Rurange is the commander of the 2d Army Division; Brigadier General Javier Salazar is the director of the Strategic and Political Studies Academy (Anepe); and Brigadier General Carlos Krumm is the director of the Army Logistic Division. [passage omitted]

Aeronautical Enterprise To Maintain Spanish Planes

PY0604233894 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p C5

[Excerpts] The National Aeronautical Enterprise, Enaer, will become a center for repairing the Casa-212 and 235 transportation airplanes, which are used mostly in the Latin American countries.

The information was provided by engineer Raul Herranz, a specialist in nuclear energy and president of Construcciones Aeronauticas S.A., CASA, of Spain, which manufactures the airplanes used in about 10 countries on the continent. [passage omitted]

Herranz pointed out the high level of efficiency of Enaer, which co-produces the advanced C-101 training airplane —known as the T- 36 Halcon—in Chile, as well as the ability of its engineers and support personnel who work in the arsenals.

He added: "This is why the Chilean company was chosen to represent us in Latin America for the maintenance or repair of all CASA products. We already have that commitment, which is unique because no authorization of this type to an industry has been given in any other part of the world."

He said the exchange of aeronautics technology between Spain and Chile has been fluid, and this transfer of technology will be strengthened soon with the signing of a new contract. He added: "We are open to any type of cooperation with Enaer."

Russian Air Force Chief Opposes Bombing in Bosnia

PY0604220794 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p C5

[Text] Lieutenant General Pyotr Deinekin [name as published], commander of the Russian Federation Air Force, said his institution opposes any type of bombing of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Serbs, Croats, Muslims, or "anybody."

Deinekin made these comments on 22 March in an interview with EL MERCURIO during which he also referred to the visit of a large Russian delegation to FIDAE 94 [International Aerospace Fair] and his country's offer to train a Chilean cosmonaut.

Asked about the recent NATO threat to the Serbs surrounding Sarajevo (former Yugoslavia) to use airplanes to bomb them if they do not hand over their weapons to the United Nations, Deinekin categorically rejected such a possibility.

He explained that he has been saying for a long time that an air attack on the area is inappropriate, because aviation is not the way to face the type of civil war taking place in that part of Europe.

He said: "This is why the Russian Air Force is categorically against any type of bombing, by Croats, Serbs, Muslims, or anybody. It is categorically against it."

He added that the soldiers would survive a bombing because they are trained for it, and only the common people would be killed.

He said that to start the type of attack threatened by NATO, certain basic and essential requirements should be fulfilled.

He said: "All civilians—old people, women, and children—would have to be evacuated first before the bombings. Only then should an attack against military targets be made."

Otherwise, he said, there will be too much bloodshed, and no one can be forgiven. He added: "There should be no more bloodshed. I hope peace will prevail in the world."

He also said: "The Russian Air Force is very concerned about the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and there is also no doubt that the Russian Air Force is at peace."

Deinekin is carrying out a six-day visit to Chile as part of FIDAE 94. Gen. Deinekin emphasized the Russian presence at FIDAE with the participation of the best Russian experts and advanced fighting weapons.

He said: "This place offers us excellent possibilities to establish contacts with different groups."

He added that this type of fair shows the progress of aviation that can really contribute to the progress of people. He also reiterated the Russian Government's offer to train a Chilean cosmonaut.

Deinekin indicated that the Russian presence at FIDAE was not only aimed at showing its advanced combat systems but at ratifying its country's intention for real technological exchange.

Colombia

Deputy Prosecutor Views State Department Report

PA0704040394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Deputy Prosecutor General Francisco Jose Sintura a few minutes ago commented on the U.S. State Department report criticizing the Colombian judicial system and the policy of the Prosecutor General's Office regarding the surrender of drug traffickers.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Sintura, has the prosecutor general capitulated in favor of drug traffickers in Colombia?

[Sintura] That is not true. A communique that we released clearly presents the Prosecutor General's Office position, which is this: As long as the existing law forbids drug trafficking in every stage, the Office will continue to fight drug traffickers and charge them in courts of law.

[Reporter] Does the United States have the moral authority to censure us like this?

[Sintura] Well, these are comments that one sovereign state makes to another. We have said a few things that we think are important, particularly because we understand that the generalizations made about the Colombian judicial system can be based on either incorrect interpretations of our legal system or insufficient reports. [end recording]

Senate President Reacts

PA0704034594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2304 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 6 Apr (DPA)—Colombian Senate President Jorge Elias today asked the U.S. Government and judicial authorities not to meddle in his country's internal affairs. Elias was referring to criticisms made in Washington on the methods used to reduce the sentences of drug traffickers who surrender.

Elias, from the ruling Liberal party, defended the system implemented by President Cesar Gaviria while noting that it was copied from the method that has been used in the United States for several years.

"The the United States showed us the rules for surrendering to justice, the informers, the sentence reductions. We are following them here in Colombia," the congressman said in statements to the press.

The Senate president's position came in the wake of criticisms from the U.S. State Department on the "short" sentences for drug traffickers and on the contacts between Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff and Cali Cartel attorneys.

According to newspaper articles from Washington, the State Department believes the Colombian justice system is corrupt and is weak before the powerful drug traffickers. It is now in the hands of the U.S. Congress to decide whether to suspend judicial aid.

U.S. officials and spokesmen for the Colombian Prosecutor's Office said that in the past weeks the U.S. legal authorities stopped sending evidence to Santa Fe de Bogota against drug traffickers as a form of protest over statements by de Greiff, who said that repression is failing as a means of fighting drug trafficking.

De Greiff favors legalization of the drug trade as a strategy to dismantle the drug traffickers' multi-million dollar business. His ideas are questioned both in Colombia as well as the United States.

According to the Senate president, Colombia is a free, independent country that can decide if it wants to continue using sentence reduction for those who surrender. Since 1990, approximately 20 drug traffickers have availed themselves of this system.

Elias pointed out that U.S. judicial authorities "should be more concerned with their own problems—because they have a lot of them—before they make outrageous, unsubstantiated criticisms."

The decrees signed by Gaviria at the beginning of his administration provide for a significant sentence reduction for criminals who surrender, confess to at least one crime, and cooperate with justice.

De Greiff has been in contact with the attorneys of Gilberto Rodriguez, who is accused of being a Cali Cartel leader and is considering turning himself in.

Congressman Comment

PA0604214294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "National Newscast" program]

[Excerpts] Today the "National Newscast" learned about the U.S. State Department's annual report on the struggle against drug trafficking.

The report places the country in the dock and notes that corruption is widespread in Colombia, particularly in the judicial branch. [passage omitted]

The policy of surrendering to justice which the State Department criticizes has also been a controversial issue in Colombia.

We consulted congressmen who approved the Penal Procedure Code.

[Begin recording] [Senator Hernan Echeverri] We politely reject this insinuation and this sort of U.S. intervention in our domestic affairs.

[Representative Ramiro Lucio] The Colombian Congress, independently—without consulting the U.S. State Department, the Belgian Justice Ministry, or any other authority any where in the world—decided to approve the Penal Procedure Code basically including the antidrug policy that the national government presented to us.

[Senator Alberto Santofimio Botero] What is happening is that we are increasingly losing our sovereignty. We are going to wind up asking the gringos what we are to do in order to issue laws in Colombia.

[Representative Edmundo Guevara] It is easier to see the mote in your brother's eye than to see the beam in your own. It is in the United States where sentences are negotiated. We copied from them. [end recording]

Judicial Official, Drug Director Comment

PA0704032794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Antonio Suarez, president of the National Association of Judicial Employees, and Gabriel de Vega, director of the National Drug Directorate, commented on the U.S. State Department's harsh, controversial report.

[Begin recording] [Suarez] We have been criticized for not having a strong enough hand, but we have a list of 262 judges and employees assassinated in Colombia. We would not have such a long history of bloodshed if we weren't doing something. The U.S. State Department's remarks are interfering and an attempt to meddle in Colombia's administration of justice. That is why we, just this once, support the prosecutor general's policy.

[De Vega] As far as my office is concerned, the report is objective and measured. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ambassador Responds to Kerry Article

PA0704142694 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Caracol has just obtained the text of the letter sent by Gabriel Silva Lujan, Colombian ambassador to the United States, to U.S. Senator John Kerry regarding the senator's repeated criticism of the surrender policy and the interpretation and implementation of the Penal Procedure Code by the Prosecutor General's Office. In a strong response to an article by Senator Kerry, which was published in THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday, Ambassador Silva Lujan has stated: As you acknowledge, the Colombian Government differs in opinion with the Prosecutor General's Office, an independent office which is part of the judicial branch. These differences, Ambassador Silva Lujan has admitted, are still significant; therefore, he added, de Greiff's opinions on the negotiation of sentences and legalization of drugs do not represent those of the Colombian Government.

As I have said in the past, Gabriel Silva added, the Colombian Government will oppose the surrender of drug traffickers under conditions that are inconsistent with their level of criminal guilt. Furthermore, the Colombian Government has not supported, does not support, nor will support the legalization of drugs as a strategy in the antidrug struggle.

We at Caracol must add that Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff's position on this topic is 180 degrees different from that of Colombian Ambassador Silva Lujan in that letter.

In his two-page letter, whose original was in English and whose translation was obtained by Caracol, the ambassador added the Cali Cartel's greatest achievement would be to provoke a breakdown in judicial cooperation between the two countries. In the letter, the ambassador also vehemently rejected the assertion Colombia is a narcodemocracy: Colombia, the oldest and most politically stable democracy in Latin America, which has been maintained despite the narcoterrorists' attacks. The Colombian people have made enormous sacrifices in defending their democracy. Your hasty assertions are an affront against courageous commitment of Colombians to their institutions.

In his letter to Senator Kerry, Ambassador Silva also denied the senator's assertion the Cali Cartel has significant economic interests in the banking, finance, shipping, mining, coffee, petroleum, and floral sectors. The ambassador has said such assertions are unacceptable

and groundless. It is untrue the Cali Cartel controls the most important sectors of the Colombian economy. These sectors are formed by respectable businessmen and companies, many of which have permanent relations with the United States. As in other countries, including the United States, organized crime seeks to infiltrate certain sectors of the legal economy, but this does not mean it controls some of these sectors or that the government tolerates its presence.

Ambassador Silva has also said that Kerry's statement that the Cali Cartel controls important elements of the Colombian media is false: For a long time, courageous journalists have been at the forefront of the crusade against drug traffickers. Investigative journalism in Colombia has played a fundamental role, revealing the illegal activities of drug-trafficking organizations. For this reason, many journalists and media have been victims of the drug cartels' kidnapping, assassinations, and terrorist attacks. In short, you have cast an undeserved shadow of doubt over the integrity of the Colombian private sector and media.

The ambassador also referred to the corruption linked to drugs, stating this is proliferating not only in Colombia but also in the United States; in fact, the ambassador added, according to a U.S. Justice Department report, more than 5,000 federal employees have been found guilty of corruption between 1970 and 1990.

This is the vigorous official reply by the Colombian ambassador in Washington, Gabriel Silva Lujan, to Senator Kerry, who again attacked our country in an article in THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday.

Cuba Accepts Oil Agreement Conditions

PA0704031194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2121 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 6 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Government has accepted Colombia's conditions for supplying oil at international market prices beginning in July, Cuban Ambassador Jesus Martinez Revelo reported today.

In statements to Colombia's Radio Network (Caracol), the diplomat said his country promised to get the letters of credit demanded by the state-owned Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] to formally sign an agreement for the sale of crude oil.

The Colombian oil company said the guarantees offered by the island's government two weeks ago to finalize the negotiations were unsatisfactory.

Guido Nule, Colombian energy and mines minister, announced in February that his country would supply Havana with between 15,000 and 20,000 barrels of oil per day at international market prices.

According to the company's president, Juan Maria Rendon, the proposal from Fidel Castro's government to cover the cost of the transaction with sugar through a third-party transaction lacks the backing of a letter of credit.

Nevertheless, the Cuban diplomat explained that he recently met with Rendon and promised to get the letters of credit demanded by the state-owned business.

"We will do whatever is necessary to defend our country's interests while reaching an agreement with Colombia in this matter," Martinez said, while emphasizing the Colombian Government's "positive attitude" toward Cuba.

Colombia's announcement that it would sell oil to the island displeased exiled Cubans in Miami, who threatened to boycott Colombian products if the negotiations are finalized.

Diplomatic relations between Colombia and Cuba were restored in October 1993 after a 12-year suspension.

Relations deteriorated in March after Santa Fe de Bogota's EL TIEMPO published a report on an alleged meeting between guerrilla leaders and a Colombian bishop in Havana, a report that was later denied by the same newspaper.

If the negotiations are completed, the Cuban Government will receive the first oil shipment in July, thus allowing it to meet one of that Caribbean country's most critical needs.

Prosecutor General Again Accuses Bishops

PA0604135094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by Alvaro Ayala; from the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] Just when everyone thought the controversy between the Prosecutor General's Office and the Catholic Church was settled, today we learn about a letter in which Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff reaffirms his accusations, saying there are bishops in Colombia who operate as couriers for guerrilla groups.

Some of the paragraphs in the prosecutor general's letter to Monsignor Pedro Rubiano, president of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, state: Some of the bishops have become just that, meaning, individuals who deliver messages from guerrilla groups to the government and to the public in general. It is dangerous to describe the enormous mistake of providing criminals with excuses to justify their acts—as has been done by assuring them they can still be guerrilla members—as pastoral evangelization; this means in Colombia one can continue to murder, steal, kidnap, and torment the nation as long as poverty and economic and social problems prevail.

Finally, the prosecutor general expresses regret over the actions carried out by certain bishops, adding that when

he returns from his vacation he will establish his position with regard to the office which will investigate the clergy in Colombia.

Election, Vice-Presidential Choices Viewed

94SM0314A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Mar 94 pp 4, 5A

[Commentary by Enrique Santos Calderon: "The Echo of the Ballot Boxes"]

[Text] A lot of abstention, yes, but what could be expected, given the confusion, the lack of seriousness, the absence of ideas, and the down-home populism that are proving to be one of the most debatable legacies of the Constitution of 1991?

Moreover, it did not strike me as all that dramatic. Historically, voter participation in Colombia has always left a great deal to be desired. With a few extraordinary exceptions, such as the plebiscite of 1957, most elections have had little more than a 60-percent turnout. The abstention rate reached 70 percent in the elections for the Constituent Assembly in 1991. After the congressional repeal, the elections to choose a new one had a 65-percent abstention rate.

This is disturbing, no matter how you look at it. It would be better to see the voter turnouts of 80 and even 90 percent that democracies such as Italy, Spain, and Costa Rica have. Not because voting is mandatory—that is a disagreeable requirement—but because they have greater political maturity and democratic consciousness.

Indifference, cynicism, apathy, skepticism, ignorance, rejection, or complacency—all these and more explain the persistence of abstentionism in Colombia. And it is not exclusive to us; in the United States, to choose an example not too far away, voter turnout is hardly ever more than 50 percent.

It is significant, in any event, that with so much political openness, so many new civil rights, the proliferation of electoral lists, new groups, special districts for blacks and Indians, etc., not only do people not flock to the polls, but voter participation actually declines. This is something to think about.

Furthermore, if blank ballots, the citizen's most explicit and conscientious way of expressing his repudiation for everything, are not given enough attention, people will feel that this form of protest vote is not worth the trouble, either, and will be discouraged from participating.

A central conclusion to be drawn from these legislative elections is that there are no national leaders. Only 16 senators were elected by quotas, and the impressive battle for the leftovers reflects an fragmented political scene in which there is not a single figure with national appeal.

There are so many things to remark upon in these elections: the return of longstanding but very weakened electoral barons, such as Guerra Serna and Name Teran; the decline of others, such as Gustavo Dajer, Salcedo Baldion, and Humberto Pelaez; surprises such as that of Jimmy Chamorro, which confirm the political consolidation of the Christian groups; phenomena such as Poncho Renteria, whose 20,000-odd votes can be considered a protest against the political class.

I was saddened by the disappearance of Galanism as a parliamentary force and the absence of figures such as Maria Cristina Ocampo, Juan Lozano, and Alfonso Valdivieso from Congress. No leader has been able to fill that void (Gaviria is another matter), and the petty bickering they got involved in was the final blow to that liberal faction in Congress.

I was also disturbed by the defeat of the M-19 Democratic Alliance (AD M-19). It was completely annihilated, losing all 12 seats. Figures such as Vera Grabe, Anibal Palacios, Bernardo Gutierrez, and Eduardo Chaves will not be around anymore. We may have disagreed with them, but they were an active presence and represented voices of criticism and debate. The debacle of the "M" confirms the limits of populism. But the parliamentary disappearance of the left (with the exceptions of Cepeda of the PC [Conservative Party] and Jorge Santos of the Revolutionary Independent Worker Movement, MOIR) may send the wrong signal to armed groups about the futility of the parliamentary, legal struggle.

Some columnists, such as Francisco Santos, have expressed the opinion that the big winner in these elections was Andres Pastrana, while Ernesto Samper lost out. This is a dubious argument, apparently based on the fact that the conservatives doubled their seats in the Senate—from 16 to 32—and in particular on the fact that Samper got 1.5 million votes less than Gaviria did in the Liberal Consultation of 1990.

It should be noted, however, that at that time of indignation and grief, people voted overwhelmingly against the dictatorship of terror that the drug lords were trying to impose, and in favor of the person who had been designated the successor of the slain leader. When they feel that something important is at stake—the survival of the system, for example—they go more decisively to the polls.

The results of the legislative elections can be interpreted in a number of ways, and everyone talks about the party according to how it went for them. But now that the electoral scene has been cleared of the confusion of lists and the question of the vice presidencies has been resolved, it is time for the home stretch in the race between Samper and Pastrana.

Samper made a big hit by naming Humberto De la Calle as his running mate. He is the ideal vice president, given his training and experience, his personal abilities, and his presidential stature. The Samper-De la Calle ticket clears the way for the Liberals and significantly

strengthens Samper's presidential chances in an election where every vote will count.

Pastrana's ticket, on the other hand, does not have a comparable attraction. Not because Luis Fernando Ramirez is not up to the job, but because he does not give Andres what De la Calle gives Ernesto. The ticket looks very "kindergartenish." Lacking a candidate of De la Calle's stature, one whom Pastrana sought desperately, or a figure like Noemi Sanin, who prefers to save herself for more dignified jobs, the Pastrana-Ramirez ticket lacks that element of complementarity, that charismatic attractiveness that wins votes, which the Samper-De la Calle ticket does have.

Now, let the presidential campaign begin in earnest. Let us see the debates and the clash of ideas between the presidential and vice presidential aspirants. We have two months to find out how they plan to govern us; to know what their specific proposals are for peace, for the economy, and for the social ills that plague Colombians; and above all, to compare them.

Ecuador

Government Makes Symbolic Payment of Foreign Debt

PA0604120694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Quito, 5 Apr (EFE)—The Ecuadoran Government announced today that it has decided to end the 20-month delay in the payment of its foreign debt service because it believes that its renegotiations with private creditor banks are "in their final phase." At a news conference, Finance Minister Cesar Robalino said, "I have authorized the payment of $5 million in interest as a symbolic show of the good faith and seriousness of the government, which wants to close a chapter that has considerably limited the country's development."

Ecuador had not paid its foreign debt service since May 1992, during the government of President Rodrigo Borja (1988-92), who managed to include approximately $1 billion for that purpose in the total renegotiation package with the credit banks' Administrative Committee. Ecuador's debt with the private banks is close to $6.5 billion, half of the country's total debt.

Some government officials have pointed out that Ecuador is trying to reduce its debt with the private banks by at least 50 percent, but Robalino did not confirm that percentage today "to avoid hindering the negotiations," he said. Robalino added that a few hours ago, the IMF directors received the so-called "letter of intention" that outlines the government's economic policy, which is expected to be approved by the full directorate during its 11 May session. Along with the presentation of this document, the Ecuadoran authorities asked the IMF for a loan of $180 million. Robalino announced that the government will later request "additional aid for a debt reduction program," but he declined to disclose further details.

At the end of May or in June, Robalino will present the same economic program to the Paris Club and request a refinancing loan of $400 million, which is approximately the amount of the debt Ecuador has with that organization. In sum, the Ecuadoran Government expects to receive, following passage of its economic program, approximately $1 billion in "fresh loans" from the IMF, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other international organizations.

The program outlined in the "letter of intention" anticipates "the country's economic growth, in real terms, by three percent up to December," which is below the expectations recently announced, Robalino added. "This implies that economic reactivation will surpass the population's growth and that the Ecuadoran people's standard of living will improve," he added.

The other goals of the 1994 program are to reduce annual inflation by 20 percent after dropping it from 60.2 percent in 1992 to 31 percent in 1993; increase the country's International Monetary Reserve (IMR) to $1.5 billion; and put an end to the fiscal deficit. The minister also reiterated the government's "political resolve" to modernize and reduce the state apparatus and to privatize all institutions hampered by deficits.

Privatization To Resume Under New Council President

PA0604134694 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen has sworn in banker Marcel Laniado as new president of the National Council of Modernization, Conam. This institution will oversee the privatization process. It is expected that with this appointment Ecuador will embark on an aggressive state modernization process by reactivating the sale of state-run companies. This process lost steam in the past few months, as Conam has not had a president since mid-1993.

Laniado said that a common effort must be made to achieve our nation's social and economic well-being. Laniado noted it is impossible to develop unless all the community's sectors participate. He thus stressed: I invite you all to cooperate.

The government will submit the rules of the State Modernization Law approved in December 1993 by the Congress after an eight-month study.

Conam was created in 1992 at the conservative government's initiative. But is has been in serious crisis since the resignation of its board of directors last year.

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2335 GMT on 4 April, in a Quito-datelined report on the same topic, adds: "Finance Minister Cesar Robalino announced that the first state-run company to be privatized will be the telecommunications company (Emetel), a public sector giant. Defense Minister Jose Gallardo gave the assurance that while companies operated by the Armed Forces are diverse, the military will agree to any required sales. Also in line to be privatized are important petroleum and energy companies considered strategic by previous governments."]

Paraguay

Wasmosy Releases 'Message to the People'

PY0604165494 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Apr 94 p 15

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy issued a "message to the people," which was not read out, to journalists at the international airport yesterday. In the message, Wasmosy says his government has studied and approved nearly 100 industrial projects, and created an Industrial Development Fund for granting immediate financial assistance to those projects. The message states: "Before the year end we will have a considerable number of new job opportunities for our young people, professionals, and technicians who anxiously expect to overcome the unemployment that afflicts thousands of our fellow countrymen." The eight-page message is signed by the president. Wasmosy did not talk to the media.

In another paragraph Wasmosy says: "The allegation that the executive branch wants to maintain a harmful influence on the judicial branch is absolutely false. Very soon we will have a new judicial branch, reorganized according to constitutional mandates. No one is more interested than the executive branch in a sovereign, independent, and trustworthy justice system. We want a judicial branch capable of assuring not only to our own citizens, but also foreigners who might want to work and invest in our country."

The message says: "The fight against corruption has enabled the government to increase its fiscal collections week after week. These collections are at record levels compared to the same periods in previous years. The government will be able to fulfill its obligations in time."

Wasmosy's message adds that the political difficulties faced by the government to administer situations and conflicts of various kinds has sometimes made relations between government and Congress more or less critical. He comments: "Events will show that our commitment with opposition leaders who consider democratic governability an essential factor for the consolidation of this historic process will not be destroyed with the ease forecasted by those who miss the autocratic system."

In the message, Wasmosy recognizes "the valuable cooperation of various opposition leaders who intellectually contributed to our diplomatic efforts, because in my government the national interest is more important than any egoist sectarian interests, which are a permanent source of mediocrity."

Wasmosy says he faced the numerous labor conflicts "with calm," stressing that negotiation is the appropriate instrument "to transform confrontation into agreement." Wasmosy adds that he has "the necessary calmness and equanimity" to listen to representatives of groups who have not had the opportunity to make themselves heard before. He adds: "We are not impressed by force, but we are very sensitive to the force of reason used by the different groups in their arguments." Wasmosy concludes by committing himself to seek "the well-being of all in freedom, democracy, and peace."

Interior Minister on 'Kidnapping' of Officials

PY0604154394 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, Interior Minister Carlos Podesta said: "Those responsible for kidnapping IBR [Agrarian Reform Institute] technicians will be brought to trial to answer for their crime. The government will not hesitate to resort to the law." Thus, he referred to peasant leaders who held a group of IBR technicians hostage in the settlement of General Resquin on 7 April.

The minister said: "Sometimes people are too intolerant, but no one can take the law in their own hands. No one can impose his own kind of justice," the minister warned. Podesta said we are faced with "a public offense" and the government will act accordingly.

The minister added it is the responsibility of Attorney General Luis Escobar Faella to bring those responsible to trial. Asked if the situation will interrupt the negotiations currently underway between the government and peasants, Podesta said: "The peasant leaders siting at the negotiating table with the government cannot be held responsible for what other peasants do on their own."

Asked about the announcement that peasants will again close roads, the minister said: "The police will enforce the law. If there is a court order, we will use force, without a doubt."

Returning to the issue of the General Resquin "kidnappers," Podesta said: "Those responsible have names and we will press charges against them, without doubt."

Supreme Court Justice Jose Alberto Correa agreed with Podesta. He said the incident is a public offense, adding that the crime of kidnapping is clearly defined in the Penal Code. Correa also said the attorney general may very well act on its own to seek justice when laws are violated.

Peru

Fujimori Cited on Electoral System Regulations

PY0604235994 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p A4

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori asked Congress on 24 March to expedite the debate and approval of the regulations on the new electoral system established by the Constitution, as well as the legislation that will regulate the 1995 general elections.

"They will be regulations the government will support because they will come from an autonomous branch," said Fujimori, who also noted the openness of the official bloc in gathering suggestions presented by other political groups and unions.

He pointed out that debates and disagreements are always good because they lead to conclusions. This is why he believes the debate on the electoral system is not tangled up in discussions.

Fujimori refrained from commenting on the request by some congressmen and politicians that he leave the presidency six months before next year's general elections if he decides to run for reelection.

"Excuse me, I am abstaining from commenting on the electoral issue for the time being," said Fujimori in answer to a reporter.

Regarding other issues, Fujimori announced that as of April all public servants will get a salary increase and that the increase will be higher for those working in health and education.

He did not give a percentage because "it is still being evaluated by the Economy and Finance Ministry."

The president made the announcement after admitting that government salaries are very low.

He said: "There should not be any doubt that there is a desire to increase the salaries not only of teachers but of all public servants."

After dedicating seven new educational centers in northern Lima, Fujimori confirmed his confidence in Peruvian Ambassador to Ecuador Eduardo Ponce.

Fujimori said: "Peruvian relations with Ecuador are at the best possible level, although there are some situations that can be misinterpreted but which do not take away the merit of the high level of trust between the two countries."

He added that relations are fluid because there is direct communication between the two countries' foreign ministries.

He indicated that the friendship between the two peoples is above any circumstantial situation.

He noted that the ambassadors are representatives of the Peruvian Government and that "as long as they act in support of those relations, I am sure there is no need for the government to question their performance."

Fujimori then confirmed his confidence in Ambassador Eduardo Ponce and disregarded reports that he would be called back to our country.

He said: "I am sure Ecuadoran officials will have a spirit of understanding in this situation."

Fujimori also expressed his disagreement with the idea that part of the resources received from the privatization of public companies be used to pay the foreign debt.

He said: "We don't want the resources from privatization to be used for paying the foreign debt because we have much infrastructure to be improved and medium- and long-term projects to carry out." He said it is essential that those resources be used in social projects.

Fujimori reiterated that it is expected that about $3 billion will be received this year from the sale of public companies and it will be essential for social investments.

Armed Forces Chiefs Express Loyalty to Fujimori

PY0704031794 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command issued an official communique stating its loyalty to the president of the Republic on the occasion of the second anniversary of the institutional change that took place on 5 April.

It says that the support given to the president's decision was appropriate because it was based on the true situation of a country that is now on the way to achieving the desired national pacification after a period of chaos.

The communique signed by the head of the Armed Forces Joint Command, the military commanders, and the National Police general director says they will continue to work to consolidate this process that is the basis and guarantee for a lasting and stable democracy.

Cocaine Paste Totaling 2,000 Tons Produced Yearly

PY0704001694 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p A13

[Excerpts] Peru produces about 2,000 metric tons of basic cocaine paste per year, of which 90 percent is "exported" by the mafias to various places in the world, according to an evaluation in the draft of the National Prevention and Drug Control Plan.

About 900 metric tons of refined basic cocaine (valued at about $600 million) are produced from the aforementioned tonnage. This represents a potential annual production of between 650 and 700 metric tons of cocaine hydrochlorate.

The figures in this document are very revealing and make clear the increase of coca leaf's cultivation for illegal ends and the "cocalization" of the economy. [passage omitted]

These figures also demonstrate the very large differences that exist between the legal and illegal cultivation of coca leaf.

There are at least 200,000 campesino families that illegally cultivate the leaf, while there are only 27,000 families that cultivate it legally, located mainly in La Convencion and Lares Valleys in Cuzco Department.

Exact statistics do no exist, but it is estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 hectares are currently dedicated to the legal cultivation of the leaf and a minimum of 10,000 metric tons of coca leaf are produced yearly. This is a very small quantity when it is compared to the 223,900 metric tons produced illegally.

But the functioning National Coca Enterprise (Enaco) is a demonstration of state organizations' lack of efficiency in the control of these cultivations.

Enaco is charged with exercising the monopoly of the commercialization and industrialization of coca leaf, but it does not control even one-half of the area and production of legal coca leaf production. [passage omitted]

Prosecutors To Join Antinarcotics Operation

PY0704000894 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Attorney General's Office authorized special provincial prosecutors for drug cases in Pucallpa, to participate in the joint antinarcotics operations carried out throughout the country.

For this purpose, the prosecutors must coordinate their participation with the Armed Forces joint command, the Peruvian National Police Antinarcotics Division, the DEA, and the U.S. Embassy antinarcotics department.

If special prosecutors Juan Malca Perez, Roberto Pesantes Creder, Luis Valdivia Sununaga, and Jorge Requifo Rojas find evidence of crimes, they must inform the provincial prosecutor of the respective jurisdiction so he can adopt the measures established by law.

Article Views Judicial Reform

PY0504235294 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 19 Mar 94 p A6, A7

[Sixth and final part of a judicial reform series by Victor Andres Ponce]

[Text] The history of the judicial branch's budget has always been characterized by a lack of resources to efficiently serve the demands of justice.

During the past few years the judicial branch's percentage of the country's budget has varied a lot. From 1965 to 1969, the average was 0.52 percent. It was 0.59 percent from 1970 to 1974.

Matters did not change during the 1980's (it must be recalled that the 1979 Constitution established that 2 percent of the budget was to be set aside for the judicial branch). From 1980 to 1984, the judicial branch's average share of the budget was 0.42 percent. From 1985 to 1990, the average was 0.55 percent.

Now, it is worthwhile to comment that in 1964 salaries accounted for 86.7 percent of the judicial branch's budget, while in 1990 it was only 20.9 percent and a mere 14 percent in 1994. In other words, judges' salaries became a mere ancillary element when the budget was being drafted.

The Current Situation

In 1994, the judicial branch submitted a budget for 440 million soles. The Treasury allocated barely 116 million soles, 0.70 percent of the national budget.

Of the 95 million soles asked for in the remunerations category, only 16.8 million soles were given. In other words, less than 20 percent of what was asked for. And what is even worse, in this item there has been a 2 million-sol reduction compared with last year's budget because the judicial branch received 18.5 million soles in 1993.

As mentioned in a previous report, a Supreme Court justice gets a salary of 3,800 soles. The judicial branch's governing law establishes that a superior justice must get 90 percent of a Supreme Court justice's salary, in other words 3,400 soles. But matters are very different: He gets only 1,600 soles.

In the case of penal, civil, and assorted judges, the law indicates that they must get 80 percent of a Supreme Court justice's salary, 3,000 soles in other words. Reality is dramatic: They only earn 1,100 soles.

Justices of the peace they should earn 2,600 soles, but they only get 700. A judicial branch official said: "In submitting this plan, our objective was to pay the salaries in accordance with the law." But this will not be possible now.

Regarding the works category, the judicial branch requested 15 million soles and was given 7.439 million. The sum that had been requested was to have been used to equip the new courts that will operate in the former seats of the Economy and Education Ministries and for other minor works.

A sum of 28 million soles was asked for assets, but the Treasury only released 10.2 million.

Some Improvements

But not everything is bad. Important improvements have been made this year. For example: There is a rule that allows the judicial branch Executive Council to administer its own resources within determined parameters: It can use 30 percent of its budget to improve salaries.

This rule in itself is revolutionary because there have been occasions when the judicial branch has not been able to dispose of its own resources, and, therefore, could not resolve problems within its scope.

For example: In 1993 it was hoped the category for its own resources would be 10 million soles, but 13.2 million soles were accrued, over 3 million soles more than estimated.

Since the budget was controlled by the Economy Ministry's Public Credit Directorate and the programming is rigid, a budget increase request had to be submitted to Congress. This was not obtained due to the complicated and bureaucratic rules.

A high-ranking judicial branch official has said: "Had a larger budget been obtained, it would have been possible to establish the first court of appeals in buildings that used to seat the Economy and Education Ministries. Progress could also have been made in eradicating corruption from the courts."

This new situation allows officials of the Executive Council of the judicial branch to increase its resources. The 1994 budget has 14 million soles but based on several measures there are plans to collect 24 million soles.

How is it possible to reach this goal? For example, a decision was made to end the forging the paid certificates of the Record of Sentences.

Things would go better if a law—which is being prepared—is approved returning to the judicial branch its right to legalize accounting books. In this way it can collect another 10.2 million soles.

Something similar will occur with the official application forms that must be purchased. There will be no longer any forging because high security paper will be used. This represents greater security. This measure is expected to yield another 30 million soles.

Despite the law of own resources and the ambitious projects of the judicial branch, some Economy Ministry officials want to deny this right to the judicial branch. To do that, they talk about the differences between the concept of "own revenues" used in the law favoring the judicial branch and the "other concepts of the Treasury" established in the Budget Law. A harsh campaign must be carried out on behalf of the judicial branch.

Another important improvement is the Basic Spending Concentration Program included in the 1994 National Budget. This program will be used in judicial matters, health, and education. It will serve to make disbursements from the Treasury without the ridigity of the budget regulations.

The idea is to increase the number of justices of the peace with law degrees and to train those who do not have any degree. It is estimated that $10 million will be invested in this project.

A Basic Objective

The possibility of managing its own resources will make the judicial branch eligible for credit from national and international organizations. Sources close to the Executive Council of the judicial branch have said that one way to finally resolve the problem of the low salary of judges would be to request a loan from the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Agency. A high-ranking official said: "A request of $20 to $30 million payable over two to three years could be made."

Conclusions

An evaluation of the figures and percentages allocated to the judicial branch this year indicates that apparently no important changes would be made. There is a growing trend for even less money being allocated for salaries.

The law allowing the judicial branch to manage its own resources opens the possibility of producing its own income and being eligible for international credit. The reaction of some Economy Ministry officials who want to deny this right to the judicial branch cannot be understood.

The Basic Spending Concentration Program represents an important progress because it establishes priorities by the government.

But a budget to solve all the needs of justice is still far away.

Uruguay

Cuba's Robaina on Economic Opening, Blockade

PY0604223994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1457 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Montevideo, 6 Apr (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who is making an official visit to Uruguay within the framework of a Latin American trip, said Cuba is willing to continue its economic opening in order to integrate with the current world, but it will not modify its "sacred" political system.

Political freedom in Cuba is conditioned by external pressure, Robaina told the media when he referred to the trade blockade the United States imposed more than 30 years ago; "therefore, today there is no need for political unity."

Regarding the economic opening, the foreign minister indicated there are already 100 important international enterprises with investments in Cuba, but he stated that he could not reveal their names because their enterprises in other countries might suffer U.S. pressure.

Regarding President Bill Clinton's government, he said: "It has less aggressive language (regarding the Cuban regime) but the blockade has increased."

Regarding President Fidel Castro's stay in power (for 35 years now), the foreign minister stressed that the president "is not in power because he wants to hold it nor does he want to perpetuate himself in power. The most important thing is not his physical presence, but the continuity of the plan" that he embodies.

Asked about succession, Robaina explained that Raul Castro, the Armed Forces minister and Fidel's brother, has been designated, but he added that "under new circumstances, new names emerge," although he made it clear that he himself "is not in line" for that task.

Robaina also commented on the accusations against his government regarding human rights violations, which he considers "to be a highly manipulated, discriminatory, selective, and politicized topic," and he denied that such cases occur in his country.

"My country disagrees with the entry (into Cuba) of those who wish to impose conditions" regarding human rights, Robaina said, when he was asked why his government has never allowed an in situ inspection by UN or Latin American Inter-Parliamentary Union members.

Montevideo media reports today that Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu suggested to Robaina "the desire (of the Uruguayan Government) that human rights be respected in that country and that a multiparty democracy be established."

During the meetings with President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Abreu, the Uruguayan Government reiterated these petitions for a political opening, according to sources.

Robaina arrived on 4 April in Montevideo and today he concludes his official visit to Uruguay, where he will remain for two more days on a private visit. He then will travel to Peru, Argentina, and Paraguay to explain the Cuban economic opening to the respective governments and request support against the blockade.

Lacalle, Navy Chief on Role of Inter-American Navies

PY0604161194 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p 9

[Article by staff correspondent Sergio Berrutti from Punta del Este]

[Text] While the 17th Inter-American Naval Conference will resolve to continue with the Unitas operations, the commanders in chief of the Navies of American countries—who are also meeting in Punta del Este—agreed that although "the threat of a war has decreased, regional conflicts will increase and these conflicts will mark the guidelines in defense matters."

This information was given to EL OBSERVADOR by James Coates, the commander in chief of the Uruguayan Navy, who also pointed out that Navies will place greater emphasis on safeguarding the interests of the state within its territorial waters.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle on 24 March lunched with the commanders in chief of the 16 participating countries. Prior to the luncheon, he said: "The naval topic has an enormous importance for Uruguay, because our territorial waters are nearly as large as our land area."

He maintained: "The government has enhanced the nation's maritime role. During our tenure we have incorporated six units and are carrying out patrols. We are protecting our natural resources. We are ready for the task of an eventual defense that one hopes will not occur."

Coates told EL OBSERVADOR: "The reason for these meetings is to exchange ideas, opinions, and to submit papers on the common links of the Continent's Navies." He added: "The naval roles within the framework of the new world order were the main topics discussed at this conference."

He remarked: "There was an exchange of information regarding the policing role by the Navies and on the fight against trafficking."

Coates indicated that a common point that was expounded by the participating countries was the fact that "governments have become more relaxed, that the threat of a war is seen as minor, that regional conflicts will increase, and thus they will set guidelines for defense matters."

Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and a delegation from the Inter-American Defense Board are participating in the meeting, which will conclude this coming weekend.

General Discusses Electoral Process, Results

PY0604215594 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Daniel Rondan]

[Text] Mercedes—General Daniel Garcia, Army commander in chief, held a news conference here. Asked about the Army position if the Broad Front won the election, he said: Uruguay "will have absolutely clear

elections and the winner will be able to exercise the power granted him by the people's votes without any type of limitations."

Gen. Garcia was born and attended school in Dolores, Soriano Department. A son, his grandchildren, and his parents still live here. He is visiting Mercedes with General Staff Chief General Juan A. Lezama; General Juan Curuchet, 2d Army Division commander; and Colonel Carlos Silva, 2d Infantry Brigade commander. He is on a routine tour of the area.

During a news conference, the Army commander in chief talked about many issues, including military personnel salaries and peace missions abroad.

Asked about the draft bill presented by the executive branch in Congress that will allow the Armed Forces to eventually participate in public security activities, Garcia said: "It is an issue that will demand the attention of legislators. They consider it a national priority."

Regarding the possibility of sending Uruguayan soldiers to other countries, Garcia said: "In the case of Georgia, so far we only have a request to say whether Uruguay would be willing to participate with a buttalion in a peace mission in that country. The government authorized an answer saying that if our participation is requested, we would acquiesce. But the United Nations still has not decided whether it will intervene in Georgia. The only UN personnel there are observers."

Regarding the situation of military personnel salaries, Garcia said there has always been a great distance between needs and possibilities, adding, however, that the last budget contemplated a substantial improvement of military salaries, "the most important increase since 1985." The country's economic situation does not permit better salaries, which would be desirable, Garcia said. The commander believes the increase has brought salary levels closer to actual needs.

Asked about President Luis Alberto Lacalle's remarks that he had to deal with the internal military crisis alone, Garcia said: "That is a political problem and I think the person who can best answer your question is the president himself. I am not the right person to judge the president's remarks. We have always tried to serve the institution and the country as best as we could from the Army command as well as from all our previous positions."

The Batlleist Forum [Colorado Party faction] is opposed to the designation of General Mario Aguerrondo as military attache to the United States. Gen. Garcia said: "It is a political expression. I do not think it is quite like that, but it is within the rules of the game. Gen. Aguerrondo is fulfilling a service mission. He was appointed by the executive branch. There are no legal problems. There might be objections from a political point of view. But they do not belong to the commander in chief's sphere of action. It is beyond his responsibilities."

Regarding the so-called "Berrios case" [Chilean security agent Eugenio Berrios kidnapped in Uruguay in 1993], Garcia said the Army finished its own investigation of the case. "The Berrios case is now being handled by the courts. All individuals involved testified. So far no one has been indicted. This is a good indication because it means the court has not found enough evidence to try anyone. I hope the case will be definitively closed, at this level, in the near future."

Asked about the possible consequences if the Broad Front won the elections, the Army commander in chief said: "I hope our country will have absolutely clean elections and the winner will be able to exercise the power granted him by the people's votes without any type of limitations. That is my hope and that is what I expect it will happen."

Venezuela

Foreign Ministry on 'Distorted' U.S. Report

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[Text] Caracas, 6 Apr EFE—The Venezuelan Government today denied that this country is a drug producer and said that, on the contrary, it is a role model for cooperation in the struggle against these illegal substances.

The Venezuelan Government, through a Foreign Ministry note, termed "distorted" recent publications identifying Venezuela as being among the countries with the most drug trafficking.

The Foreign Ministry note refers to the "Annual Report on the Strategy for the Control of Drugs at the International Level," presented by the U.S. State Department to the U.S. Congress.

The Foreign Ministry explains that according to this report, "Venezuela is not a narcotics producing nation but a transit point for drugs going from Colombia to the United States and Europe."

The Foreign Ministry further states that "Venezuela is among those nations that have given exemplary cooperation in the struggle against drugs," recalling a long list of international agreements signed toward that goal.

The Foreign Ministry cited "as an example of the permanent struggle against this scourge" the confiscation of 3,405 kg of various drugs in 1993 by Venezuelan police.

The official document notes that Venezuela "suffers the consequences of the illegal trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, particularly of money laundering, a corollary of drug trafficking." It requests the cooperation of the U.S. Government as "it is time to face this problem together."

Interior Minister on Report

PA0704042794 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 6 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by Enelcys Calderon]

[Text] "Corruption is everywhere here. It is an obstacle to many things in addition to the counternarcotics effort. Anything said about corruption in Venezuela is not an exaggeration." Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom made those statements in Congress, where he was called to answer questions about a U.S. State Department report that corruption in Venezuela hinders the fight against drug trafficking.

The interior minister clarified that he had not read the report in question and did not have any details on this specific case. He did say, however, that "corruption is a very leafy tree in Venezuela."

The Legislators

For his part, Gustavo Tarre Briceno, representative of the Social Christian Party and chairman of the Chamber of Deputies finance committee, said he had read that corruption hindered counternarcotics efforts just as it negatively affected any other government action.

The legislator added that he had not read the State Department report, which has appeared only in the press, and thus could not comment "on a report that only mentions Venezuela in a few lines. I prefer that Venezuela be evaluated by Venezuelans." He admitted that this type of report negatively affects the government.

MIN [National Integrity Movement] legislator Gonzalo Perez Hernandez said that if the U.S. Government has such information on Venezuela "it is probably true, because it is hard to believe that drug traffickers do not know the importance of politicians in quieting investigations that could take them or their representatives to jail."

He added that drug traffickers promote corruption in the government security organizations to keep drug traffickers from being punished. "If the United States has the names of people and institutions at the service of drug traffickers in our countries, it should identify them to help us combat drug trafficking and the corruption it generates."

Minister Defends Former Official's Appointment

PA0604133994 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Apr 94 p D-1

[Report by Wilfer Pulgarin]

[Text] Defense Minister General Rafael Montero Revette defended the appointment of his predecessor, Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon, as adviser for Venezuelan military purchases in the United States. At the same time, Montero reported that said appointment has the president of the Republic's blessing.

Montero Revette had avoided making statements on the matter on Tuesday. But, speaking this Wednesday at the Miraflores presidential palace, he made extensive comments on this matter at the conclusion of a regular Council of Ministers meeting.

The defense minister justified that appointment of Munoz Leon, recalling the admiral's military career, indicating that he came to this position without having missing one promotion: "He held the post of chief of the Navy's staff, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and he was defense minister; therefore he has enough experience in the military field."

Montero added: "He was going to be living in the United States anyway on his own account. I asked him to be an ad honorem adviser; he will not draw a salary. He will advise, on an ad honorem basis, four departments that we have in the United States on military purchases. He has a great deal of experience in the military field, and he can advise us because he knows all of the organization's problems."

Questions for the Minister

Reporters asked the minister several questions.

[Reporter] Is there no one else with the same knowledge in the military field?

[Montero] I would like to know if there is. Previously, when he was defense minister, even before he was defense minister, hardly anyone ever questioned him. Maybe he was questioned about some things he said during his seven-month tenure, but Munoz Leon's military career cannot be criticized. Besides this is an ad honorem post.

[Reporter] Why was he given a diplomatic passport?

[Montero] He was given a diplomatic passport because the Defense asked for one.

[Reporter] Where in the United States will he live?

[Montero] I do not know exactly where.

[Reporter] It is not clear why he has a diplomatic passport if he is not a member of the Venezuelan diplomatic corps in the United States.

[Montero] He is a member of the diplomatic corps in the United States because he has an ad honorem post as a Defense Ministry adviser in military organizations through which we trade with the United States.

[Reporter] Are there other advisers with diplomatic passports?

[Montero] No, we have not issued any during my tenure. I do not know if other ministries have done so.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister: The Foreign Service law establishes that the members of a diplomatic mission, in order to perform their duties, are accredited by one nation to the other. If Admiral Munoz Leon is an ad honorem adviser and not a representative of a mission, why is he then issued a diplomatic passport?

[Montes] You could say that he is an ad honorem adviser because he will not draw a salary. Nevertheless, I do need him, with his contacts—he even took the Inter-American Defense course—to give us a lot of advice because he knows about the problems. It is easier for him to travel to Venezuela to report to me on what is going on over there than to have officials from there come back here.

[Reporter] Is he going to be a member of the diplomatic mission?

[Montes] He is a member of the diplomatic mission.

[Reporter] Excuse me, Mr. Minister, he has said that a split had occurred in the FAN [National Armed Forces] over the president's decision not to appoint him defense minister. How could this appointment possibly have occurred?

[Montes] Look here, listen to the following; I am going to repeat myself. Maybe—you know him—he made this remark on the spur of the moment because he was not appointed defense minister. It is not that he was not appointed; he was not reconfirmed. I spoke to him subsequently on several occasions. He is aware that what he said was a rash reaction, but he does have position within the military. He is an officer with almost 30 years of experience. He knows the organization, he knows the organization's problems, he has run the organization. Therefore, I appointed him, having taken this into account.

[Reporter] Former Commander Chavez confirmed MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] and Radical Cause's charges about the defense minister's alleged plan to stage a coup. Doesn't this contradict the appointment somewhat?

[Montes] When anyone here attacks a military man, they accuse him of planning a coup. If Commander Chavez, who was detained, has hard evidence that a coup was being planned, let him present the evidence to the court. It is very easy to talk. I want evidence because I am not going to fall into the trap of believing everything that many people like to say, just to talk. Gentlemen, evidence must be presented.

[Reporter] Does the appointment have the president of the Republic's blessing?

[Montes] Of course it does. I must submit every appointment to the president of the Republic for approval. I requested this appointment.

No Millions To Equip the Fan

Meanwhile, the defense minister denied information to the effect that in going over the accounts with the president, he asked that 86 billion bolivares be earmarked for the FAN's equipment.

It was also reported that all the officers who returned from Peru had decided to accept a court martial.

Montes also said he will not get involved in "tit-for-tat bickering" with former Commander Chavez Frias, although he said it is wrong to think, as the coup leader said, that armed struggle is a valid means of attaining power.

He noted: The nation wants peace, tranquillity, and progress.

As far as patrolling the Gulf of Venezuela—reported by his colleague Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas—he said the physical presence that has always existed will be reinforced in a more organized fashion.